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FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

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BULLETIN

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

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The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches, on the various aspects of Nature Lore, Natural Science, and Conservation of Natural Resources. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs should be on glossy paper with data attached. The Society is a non-profit educational institution and we offer no remuneration for contributions to the *Bulletin*. The Society assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or illustrations submitted for its use.

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Cover Illustration, AN EASTERN PHOEBE AND ITS NEST, Roger Tory Peterson.

The President's Page



It is to be hoped that many of us have read "Saving Man's Wildlife Heritage," by John Baker, President of the National Audubon Society, in the excerpt reprinted from the *National Geographic Magazine* of November, 1954. It is an admirable summary of the history of the Conservation Movement in the United States and the development of national sanctuaries for the preservation of birds and mammals.

Education of boys and girls in schools and in summer camps is stressed as the most important activity but, as with our own Society, lectures, expeditions, photography, television, and radio are useful aids in obtaining and retaining a favorable public interested in the identification of species in the field instead of collecting for cabinets of stuffed birds and of birds' eggs, as was common in my boyhood.

The kodachromes by *National Geographic* photographer Robert F. Sisson are excellently chosen to recommend nature study to readers.

Charles Mohr, Director of the Audubon Center in Connecticut, is shown to be an attractive man, his students are obviously interested, and his captive fox is graceful and animated. No less attractive is Allan Cruickshank, shown at the Todd Wildlife Sanctuary in Muscongus Bay, Maine, though we should like to have seen him pictured standing on his head after recording a new species on the launch trip! Who would not wish to be at the Medomak camp after looking at the pictures of the launches off for Eastern Egg Rock with its gulls, guillemots, and petrels? The girls having a view of flying spoonbills and egrets from the top of the deckhouse of the launch *Audubon* are shown in kodachrome as gaily dressed and pleasant to look upon as the Roseate Spoonbills. "The flame-tinted spoonbill" shown in Faraway Seclusion might typify a proficient dancer of ballet.

We emphatically endorse the sentiment expressed by John Baker: "The Audubon Society disagrees with the idea still rampant that wildlife and plants can be classified as beneficial or harmful. Individuals or groups of a species, locally and temporarily, may be, or seem to be harmful to the interests of people. But all wild plants and animals in their native environment have roles to play in the balance of Nature."

We are glad to have as many members of our Society as can afford it join the National Audubon Society, which does on the national level what we attempt within this Commonwealth, and we are fortunate in having as a director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society the chairman of the board of directors of the National Audubon Society.

Robert L. Walcott

Winter Birding In Puerto Rico

BY ROBERT L. GRAYCE

Photographs courtesy of Pan-American World Airways System.



A typical Puerto Rico landscape with sugar cane in the foreground.

Tropical regions can cast a spell over the northerner, particularly in winter. Birds help to intensify this. After a month on the islands of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola, I realized the tremendous contrast between New England and the Caribbean, on land a change from dormancy and demure seed-eaters to blooming life and vocal songbirds. The palms or the large shade trees in full flower in December almost stun the visitor. On my first visit to Cuba, I discovered that even in summer the poincianas, or flame trees, gave a vividness to life unknown in the North. How pertinent seems the remark of Alexander Wetmore in his *Birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic*, words of caution and a plea, for birds are not so abundant as the plants: "The circumstance seems so convincing that one might well accept current tradition in the matter and turn to botanizing as an outlet for recreational energy, since everywhere interesting plants of many species cloak the island in profusion." Things have changed in the last twenty-five years. Today we have a more advanced concept of dynamic interrelationships and the ecologic complex. I always let the plants capture me at once, learn the ones I want to know, then concentrate on the birds.

On my first stroll uptown to Old San Juan in Puerto Rico, there in the foliage, chanting its wheezing trills, darted the yellow, black, and white Banan-aquit, its name indicating its dependence on a plant product. It is a honey creeper (*Coerebidae*) and will come and dine on a pile of sugar put out on the porch rail. Not being able to hover like a hummingbird, with its slender decurved bill it had cleverly made slits in the large poppy-red *tulipan* corollas to reach the nectar. In the morning when I opened up the blinds to a new day, there it would be, creeping amid the outer branches of the Indian almond, the *almendron*. As it sang, I could notice the bright red mouth-lining, the color of the tree's huge obovate leaves, which were now falling and being replaced at the branchlet tips by apple-green new ones. Almond trees side by side might be in clustered fruit or spiked with blossom at the same time, but never for long hiding these probing perchers nor the gray lizards which matched the bark.

Later, when visiting Hispaniola, I found the erect waxy chalices of the African tulip tree (*Spathodea*) being filled with water after midday showers, making perfect drinking cups for that peculiar, uncrested relative of the Cedar Waxwing restricted in range to this one island, the Palm Chat (*Dulus dominicus*). From their colonial nests, bulky sticklike structures at the bases of the palm fronds, the Palm Chats came to drink after a downpour. Certain palms, such as the feathery royal palm (*Roystonea*), are often a source of food for many birds. Its fruiting branches (*palmiche*) resemble dates and feed the lowland species where it grows. In fact, many of the birds depend on plants for food, because the Greater Antilles were once almost totally forested, especially Puerto Rico, which had no natural savannahs. Concerning the palm, I made a most interesting observation right in the capital city of the Dominican Republic. At dusk dozens of Palm Swifts came to the endemic hat palm, with fanlike leaves, to perch for the night, funneling into the tree's cover like migratory Chimney Swifts entering their artificial roosts.

People sometimes ask me what there is about the West Indies that makes them different. They even wonder if they are in the tropics, often confusing them with Bermuda. The Greater and Lesser Antilles, to answer the second query first, lie totally within the torrid zone described in our old geographies, which means south of the Tropic of Cancer. The main islands of the Bahamas are to the north of this, although conceded to be a part of the West Indies. As for the differences, a most distinctive feature is the trade wind, alleviating the heat and air moisture. It blows from the northeast, a significant direction ornithologically, since the trade winds or hurricane winds can bring few strays or accidentals to the islands. This helps to explain the fact that Puerto Rico has only around 163 recorded birds as compared with 509 for the State of Florida. Colonization, still going on, must have been slow. The fact that the West Indies, including Puerto Rico, have a distinctive endemic group of birds, species found nowhere else, shows that certain stranded forms have been there many centuries. In many ways these are the most sought-for birds by any visiting bird student. (A parrot, lizard cuckoo, bare-legged owl, two hummingbirds, tody, woodpecker, vireo, tanager, and bullfinch are full species found just here or near by, including the Virgin Islands.) A climatic fact surprising to many people is the small seasonal yearly range, only 6°F., with an annual average of 76.3°F. for Puerto Rico. These are official statistics, although residents will tell you there is a big sensible variation between summer and winter due to wind and humidity factors.



Peaceful valleys, many of them cultivated, and rugged mountains, make up much of the Puerto Rico landscape.

Talking to "State-side" inhabitants of Puerto Rico about the unique attributes of the West Indies, one field companion, Chicago-reared, told me that he always felt that the omnipresent billowy cumulous clouds, those "fluffy wool-packs" which in the north in summer sometimes develop into brooding thunderheads, typify the islands. Products of the trade winds over the warm land areas, in the West Indies they are soft-edged, without sharp definition, so unlike the arid desert or the frigid arctic, where all objects stand out in clear relief. Colors, too, are modified. The sky is not so intense, but a milkier blue. Waves bursting over the outlying limestone or coral reefs, sometimes six deep, become china white at twilight, when the clouds turn pink and violet. Moisture in the air is responsible for this difference — a humidity not noticeable in winter but averaging 78 per cent yearly. Perspective, too, is altered, with a resultant size distortion. The Brown Pelicans seemed primitive pteranodons as they flapped and glided silently out from San Juan Bay to roosting sites on the remote mangroves to the eastward along the coast. In my mind's eye as capstone of the typical is the scene at Luquillo Beach in northeastern Puerto Rico as I saw it in January. Tree-clad mountains loom in blue haze across a lagoon. Coconut palms band the shore. Green water in the shallows replaces indigo seaward. White-crested waves break over outlying reefs. Royal Terns plunge for surface anchovies. And, for its complete arc, the cumulous clouds hang above the horizon.

To be more specific about birding, here are one day's observations from my notebook. *Friday, December 10, 1954. San Juan (3rd day in Puerto*

Rico). 5:00 A.M. Left through darkness with Dr. W., his son, and J.L.N. to drive east almost to the town of Luquillo, then up into El Yunque (the anvil) forest. At dawn we wait on the slope of Mt. Britton. (How pleasantly surprising to find a mountain named for a botanist. Nathaniel Lord Britton, co-author with Addison Brown of a flora of the northeastern United States, has also written the classic standard work for Puerto Rico's flora.) Looking toward the east we know that here, as elsewhere in the tropics, day will come quickly. In the dark blinked the cold light of fireflies. Constantly calling were the tree frogs, named *coquis* for their cricketlike notes. I could only wonder how they ever got here without the wings of birds or insects.

Since sounds register before color is perceived, in the beginning we indulged in a sort of ear-tuning, or auscultation. Dr. W., who knows the birds' songs but professes only to be a botanist, first picked out the Puerto Rican Bullfinch, *Loxigilla*. Then I recognized the Bananaquit, here as well as in the lowland. We were later to see several of their nests (globular, with a side entrance), where, incidentally, unlike most birds, they roost at night. But best of all came the notes of three Puerto Rican Bare-legged Owls, *Otus nudipes*, probably the only owl species living today on the island, now that the Short-eared Owl is extirpated. We were unable to get very close to the owls, so well-hidden were they in the wet foliage. Doves, such as the Ruddy Quail Dove, cooed. Whistling notes brought to the lips of W. Jr. the word *Calandria*, the Puerto Rican Oriole.

From here we went down the road in the early light toward Rio Blanco and parked on a ridge. After a short wait we heard the screeching of parrots as overhead a fluttering, reeling form passed that reminded me of a fledgling learning to fly. At least five others followed in this little flock. One perched boldly above us on a dead lichen-covered tree and began to preen. The sun was now up, so we could see that tropical velvety green, so different from the plumage of northern birds. Every field mark showed — the eye-ring, light bill, red basal cere band, and even the blue flight quills. With a squawk it flew to join three other parrots eating fruit in a treetop.

James Bond's *Field Guide to the Birds of the West Indies* states that *Amazona vittata* is now confined entirely to our government's Caribbean National Forest. Dr. W., who was from the forestry service, told me that this tract is now being managed especially for the parrots. Formerly old dead trees of this tropical rain forest used to be cut down for firewood, but now a large area is being left untouched. The parrots need the old trees and their cavities for nesting, the scarcity of suitable sites being one of the bottlenecks in their life cycle. Actually, there are fewer than a thousand of these birds alive today. I suggested a birdbox building program for the parrots, telling what had been done for the Wood Duck — a suggestion that received some serious consideration. Food abundance is not so great a problem with the parrots, because of the tropical phenomenon of fruiting trees of the same species not maturing exactly at the same time but fairly well throughout the year. The particular parrots that we saw seemed to be mated, since they dotted the trees in pairs and flew together in rather open flocks. The *cotorras*, as the Puerto Ricans call them, tame easily and adjust well to captivity, which is one of the parrot's weaknesses. Artificial feeding would not be a good idea in their management, except perhaps to improve the quality of the food they get at times. It would, of course, allow them to be more easily observed by the tourists who come through the forest in summer to see the tall trees and enjoy the coolness.

Walking along the road, we heard the Puerto Rican Woodpecker, also the elusive Tody — an odd little bird that reminds one of a cross between a kingfisher and a hummingbird. Each island of the major Greater Antilles has a tody (there are two on Hispaniola) of a bird family — like the Palm Chat — just found in the West Indies. The Tody is perhaps the most unique bird in the Antilles. The green-backed, red-bibbed Puerto Rican Tody appears as the frontispiece in Wetmore's *Birds of Porto Rico*, a color plate done by Louis Agassiz Fuertes showing the bird perched on a forked *Dicranopteris* fern, which grows along the roadside here and helps to keep the soil in place. We had good looks at tanagers, the Red-legged Thrush, Pearly-eyed Thrasher, and, along a tumbling stream, a migrant Louisiana Water-Thrush.

We had left without breakfast and now went to a hillside restaurant, a concession of the forest service. The view from the terrace could perhaps be rivaled but hardly surpassed in the West Indies. Receding hills softened by the morning haze gave way to coastal beaches and lines of breakers. The garden had many plants, often flowers with deep tubular corollas. One baby-blue relative of our spotted touch-me-not attracted attention by a long-billed humming object probing it deeply. Visiting one floral tube after another, a shimmering hummingbird, two inches larger than our Ruby-throat, fed rather sluggishly. This Green Mango Hummingbird, *Anthracothorax viridis*, all one color, is a specialty of Puerto Rico's mountains. During breakfast, while looking at the view, I spied in the distance a big buteo and recognized the bird at once as the Red-tailed Hawk. Such quick recognition mystified my companions, who see so few hawks. It ascended the morning thermals, those rising air currents which come up the mountain valleys from the heated plain. Within three minutes it was joined by three others.

Now with more light in midmorning, I was to have the opportunity of studying the composition of the rain forest, although this day, fortunately, was rather dry. Most of the virgin timber has been removed, although there are a few great old monarchs, such as the laurel sabino, *Magnolia splendens*. Down "The Big Tree Trail" we went, named for this species. Epiphytes, lianas, buttresses, props, and the story formation of a climax tropical forest all were present. Along the slippery path strewn with dead silvery-lined leaves of the Cecropia we rambled, listening to the Todies. It was especially interesting among the plants to see club mosses (*Lycopodium*) which I had associated before with northern conifers. They seemed as out of place as the migrant Black-throated Blue Warbler. Tree ferns were a novelty. And I was glad to discover that the publicized "orchids of the rain forest" mentioned in a tourist brochure were not planted Cattleyas. Young W. Jr., a boy scout, took some resin from one broad-leaved tree, the *tabanuco*, which burned like wax when touched with a match. So this was the candle tree of the tropics! It was indeed a different experience to be in such a deep, quiet, and awesome forest. What a contrast to so much of this heavily-populated island. I felt grateful for the foresight of such an early conservationist as President Theodore Roosevelt, who first set up this forest preserve in 1903. And it was a presidential proclamation by Franklin Roosevelt which made this the Caribbean National Forest in 1935. Among the greatest enemies of the forest are the charcoal burners, who are still allowed supervised exploitation in certain areas. However, mangrove trees, so prevalent along the coastal lowlands and inlets, make just as good charcoal, with the added advantage of regrowing immediately without having to wait for centuries, after wide-scale cutting, to find conditions suitable for redevelopment through the slow process of plant

succession. In the future this forest may be an important outdoor laboratory in the educational program of the schools of the island. It is now being used occasionally by students from the University of Puerto Rico.

Toward noon, clouds had gathered over the mountains and we descended northward, to return to San Juan, birding along the way. We made several roadside stops, going down to eat some of the abundant raspberries which I had not expected here. They were large and juicy and just waiting to be picked before they would rot on their canes. I could only wonder why no birds claimed them. A little lower down, by the banana fields, we halted again at a Jivaro's hut to buy some ripe fruit to eat while riding along.

We were back at San Juan at 1:00 P.M. In retrospect, I thought of this as a day of bizarre shapes and patterns, of color, and even of fragrance, as the crushed leaves of an exotic roadside ilang-ilang. And I admired Dr. W.'s wonderful knowledge of sounds and forms so new to me.

Needless to say, this was not my only trip to El Yunque and its trees and birds. By January 2, on an all-day car cruise covering the whole northeastern part of the island and the forest, although it rained heavily I totaled forty-five birds, ten fewer than my all-time high for the opposite side of the island in half a day only. My final list comprised ninety-three birds from Puerto Rico during a period of approximately three weeks.

Thumbnail Sketches of Our Vice-Presidents



Recently returned from the Middle West to take up residence in Maine, his native State, OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR., was promptly elected an honorary vice-president of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at the January, 1955, meeting of the board of directors.

Dr. Pettingill's intense interest in ornithology dates back to his undergraduate days at Bowdoin, when he undertook a study of the American Woodcock. The results of this study, which he later continued as a graduate student, were published in 1936 as a monograph of the Boston Society of Natural History.

After obtaining his doctor's degree at Cornell, he served as a teaching fellow in biology at Bowdoin College (1933-34) and instructor in biology at Westbrook Junior College (1935-36), and for two summers he was instructor in ornithology at the New Hampshire Nature Camp. From 1936 to 1953 he was a member of the faculty at Carleton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where he taught ornithology and other zoological courses, and during the summers he was on the teaching staff at the University of Michigan Biological Station. Between 1937 and 1952 Dr. Pettingill served as secretary, vice-president, and president of the Wilson

Ornithological Club, and secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union. He was elected a Life Fellow of the latter organization in 1947.

Dr. Pettingill was a leader on the Cornell University-Carleton College Ornithological Expedition to Mexico in 1941, to investigate the mountainous area in southwestern Tamaulipas. Many members of the Society will remember his film story of this expedition presented in the Audubon Nature Theatre series of 1942.

In 1945 Dr. Pettingill left Carleton College for a year, to conduct the Whooping Crane project which was sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. By car, boat, and plane he followed the cranes as closely as possible from the Gulf coast to inner Canada in the fight to save this declining species from extinction.

In 1931 he was photographer on the Carnegie Museum Expedition to Hudson Bay, and in 1944 he was commissioned by the National Audubon Society to film birds in the Audubon sanctuaries in Texas.

Dr. Pettingill's *A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology*, published in 1939 and revised in 1946, is now used in over one hundred colleges and universities in forty-two States. From 1942 to 1953 he served as editor of the section on Aves in *Biological Abstracts*, and wrote the introduction to the section on birds in *The Book of Knowledge*. His two-volume work, *A Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi*, published in 1951, and *A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi*, published in 1953, is the first Baedeker of its kind, giving specific information on when and where to find different species of birds in each of the forty-eight States. Over six hundred persons from coast to coast contributed information for this work.

Dr. Pettingill is the photographer and script writer for eight films on birds produced by Coronet and used widely in secondary schools, and nature films by Walt Disney Productions contain much of his footage. Since 1939 he has used his motion pictures for presentations to three quarters of a million people in the United States and Canada, and he has been featured a number of times in the Audubon Nature Theatre programs in Massachusetts. To obtain his pictures, Dr. Pettingill has traveled 125,000 miles and exposed over thirty-five miles of film.

A year ago Dr. and Mrs. Pettingill returned from a six months' visit to the Falkland Islands filming wildlife, and the pictorial record of this trip will be presented in February, 1956, on the Audubon Nature Theatre program in Boston, Worcester, and Northampton.

The Pettingills are now making their home in Wayne, Maine, and the daughters Polly and Mary are attending Kents Hill School.

C. RUSSELL MASON

Open House at Rocky Knoll

To acquaint members and friends with the facilities offered by the latest property acquired by the Society, Rocky Knoll, at 74 Maple Street, Milton, the gift of Miss Eleanor P. Martin, open house will be observed May 21, from 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Mrs. John Richardson will be in charge, with assistance from the house committee of the Board of Directors, the advisory committee for Rocky Knoll, and members of the Audubon staff. The residence, redecorated and efficiently planned under the supervision of Mrs. Donald C. Alexander, will serve as headquarters for the Audubon teaching staff of eastern Massachusetts. Mrs. Doris R. Manley is resident director.

Caribbean Tour Successful

The twelve members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society who participated in its first out-of-the-country tour, to observe bird life in Jamaica, Cuba, and the Isle of Pines, returned on April 14 sunburned and with a sheaf of new experiences. With the co-operation of local naturalists in the countries visited, and of a ranger at Everglades National Park, a fine list of interesting birds was secured. The seventy species seen in Jamaica included three Hummingbirds — Streamer-tail, Mango, and Vervain — and even the hotel lawn was alive with feeding Grassquits. In Cuba the Bee Hummer, the smallest in the world, was seen at Jones's Jungle, Solitaires were heard singing in the sierras of Pinar del Rio, Trogons were found at several locations, and fifty Jacanas made one small marsh colorful. Lizard Cuckoos, Doves, and Bananaquits attracted much attention on the trip, and the last day spent in the Everglades yielded a pair of Short-tailed Hawks, a flock of White Pelicans, and three Swallow-tailed Kites.

Natural Science and Conservation Workshop Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre, Massachusetts June 15 - 25

Registrations are coming in steadily for the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Natural Science and Conservation Workshop that will be conducted at Cook's Canyon this June. The course is designed to provide practical guidance to leaders interested in conducting nature programs in camps, schools, and day camps. It is also designed for all who love the out-of-doors and wish to know it better. All branches of natural science are drawn upon for material. Projects are planned to encompass mammals, reptiles, birds, butterflies and other insects, rocks, stars, trees, soil, water, and sights and sounds of the night. Emphasis is given to methods of making outdoor education adventure and fun for young people. In addition to the Sanctuary, resources of the Harvard Forest, United States Soil Conservation Service, and Quabbin Reservoir are made available to the Workshop.

The resident fee for the ten-day period is \$60.00; the day fee, \$32.00. A limited number of partial and working scholarships will be granted to students requiring financial assistance. Applications for scholarships should be made in writing, stating the qualifications of the applicant and the reason for requesting aid.

The Workshop is operated with the co-operation of the Massachusetts Conservation Council, and with a grant-in-aid from the National Wildlife Federation. A descriptive folder was published as an insert in the February *Bulletin*. Further information may be obtained from Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16.

Hartford Bird Study Program

THE HARTFORD BIRD STUDY CLUB Spring Census will be taken, May 7-22, covering fifteen areas, under the direction of as many appointed captains. Saturday field trips are scheduled on May 7, 14, and 21, and an Identification Walk on Sunday, May 15. The annual meeting of the club will occur on Tuesday evening, May 10, and on Tuesday, May 24, there will be a supper meeting at 115 Prospect Street, Bloomfield, with Mr. and Mrs. Percival Stark as hosts to the club.

Cape May, Strategic Migration Observatory

BY ROGER BARTON



ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK FROM NAS

The Hudsonian Curlew is a common migrant at Cape May.

Our cousin Charlotte Smith, who lives in Weston, Massachusetts, is going to visit us in New Jersey this spring. What can we show her that will match the Black Gyrfalcon, Pacific Loon, and other noteworthy species that were pointed out to us when we visited Cape Ann and Plum Island a December or two ago? Incidentally, Charlotte and I are members of both the Massachusetts and New Jersey Audubon Societies. This is a reciprocal practice that I urge upon all persons in the two societies.

I know that Charlotte will want to go to Cape May. It is an easy ride now over the new Garden State Highway and takes only a bit more than three hours from the Newark area. However, at this season, Cape May is no more spectacular than any other shore area. It is in September and October that the birds are jammed into Cape May in unbelievable numbers, both as to individuals and species.

Cape May is the southernmost county of New Jersey, and its southern tip is Cape May Point. This area has approximately the same latitude as Washington, D.C. It has the ocean on one side and Delaware Bay on the other. It is the meeting place of northern and southern species, of birds of the ocean and shore, of town and farmland, of the woodland and salt marshes.

In the spring the northward flight of birds through Cape May is not es-

entially different from that of any area in the interior. There are occasional waves of warblers, but these are not comparable with the flights up the Delaware Valley. There may be some massed flights of Woodcock, Snipe, and Fox Sparrows, but for the most part there is just a steady movement of transients. There seems to be no return flight of the thousands of hawks that pass through in the fall, and there are no heavy spring migrations of Flickers, Kingbirds, and Tree Swallows, such as are striking phenomena of the autumn. There is a notable scarcity of certain warblers; the Cape May Warbler, for instance, is quite irregular in its appearance.

April has produced 139 species at the Cape, and May has provided 178. In the latter month the egrets and herons may be found, although the Louisiana and Yellow-crowned Night Herons are unusual. The month occasionally produces a Glossy Ibis. Clapper Rails are abundant, and so are Turnstones, Black-bellied Plovers, and Hudsonian Curlews. The Black Skimmer and Least Tern are also common. You find the Carolina Chickadee at Cape May, and the Carolina Wren and Mockingbird are of dependable occurrence.

So there is nothing unusual about the spring at Cape May, but the autumn flight is quite a different matter. Under normal conditions of wind and weather, some birds proceed regularly south along the coast of New Jersey, while others cut across the State above an area of sand and pitch pine that is called the Pine Barrens and proceed thence down the Delaware Valley. But let a strong northwest wind arise, as it does frequently in the fall, with a sharp drop in temperature, and the whole Cape May Point area will be deluged with birds. The migrants are blown off their course in a southeasterly direction and funneled into the Point. Some are blown out to sea and battle back to land, while others hug the coast line until they reach the southern tip of New Jersey, where they drop down to rest and feed and await normal weather before attempting the broad expanse of Delaware Bay.

If you are at Cape May at these times you may be puzzled to find the birds flying north. Witmer Stone tells of seeing Robins coming in large numbers from the open ocean as far offshore as his binocular could distinguish. One October I stood on the boardwalk at Cape May on a windy, rainy night and heard bird cries all about me. I flashed my powerful electric torch into the sky and saw all manner of species beating in from the sea. They were flying so low that it was possible to distinguish warblers and sparrows, shore birds and geese. Some of the smaller birds dashed against the lighted windows of stores along the boardwalk. Another October I was at Cape May Point early in the morning and saw flocks of Blue Jays flying in from the south and the sea. I estimated a thousand birds, impressive evidence to me of the migratory proclivity of this species.

On these occasions, often after a northwest wind, the whole countryside is thronged with birds. Sometimes the winds bring the spectacular flights of hawks for which the Cape is noted. At other times there are armies of Kingbirds, Flickers, Woodcock, and thousands of other passerine birds.

Some 320 species and subspecies have been observed at Cape May. The month that produces the most is September, with 214, followed by October, with 190. The former is the month of maximum migration of land birds, of the passing of most of the shore birds and terns, and of the first flights of ducks from the north. Hosts of southbound transients crowd the Cape and are joined by regular summer residents, winter visitants, and summer visitants from the south, in number and variety to fascinate any bird watcher.

Invite Hummingbirds To Your Garden

By C. RUSSELL MASON



OLIN SEWALL PETTINGILL, JR.

A Ruby-throated Hummingbird on its Nest.

Hummingbirds are the flashing jewels of the bird world, and it is difficult to think of a garden as complete without them. As they dart about, now hovering before an open blossom, now advancing with wings rotating at sixty to ninety revolutions a minute, then backing for a better view or to move to a more succulent repast, their brilliant iridescence and rapid movement add immeasurable delight for the observer.

Since Hummers are dependent for food upon the nectar of blooming plants and the tiny insects attracted to them, we can prepare our gardens to welcome these birds by providing the plants they like, as well as artificial nectar in a sugar-and-water mixture to supplement their normal diet.

It has been claimed that Hummingbirds show a preference for red flowers. However, it is more likely brightness of color, not necessarily red, that draws their attention, for they favor the blue delphinium as well as the spectacular *Delphinium cardinale* of the Pacific coast. Red flowers provide a sharp color contrast to the green garden background, but in the shady woods and swamps the orange of jewelweed may be just as conspicuous, or, in the drier regions browned by the searing sun, a green or a yellow flower might be equally enticing. Tubular flowers are eagerly sought, perhaps because they have the greater deposits of nectar. It seems to be generally agreed that, with their lack of nectar, composites and double flowers have little attraction for the Hummers. These birds may at times sip the juices of persimmon (*Diospyros*) or pricklypear (*Opuntia*) that have been pecked by other birds or have softened on the plants; or they may take advantage of the borings of a Sap-sucker to enjoy the sap of sugar maple, apple, or willow.

Hummingbirds seem to time their arrival in the spring to the flowering of their favorite food plants. In many northern gardens in May there is little in bloom, and it is especially important that at this season we have as many of the Hummer's food plants available as possible. We should also have syrup containers ready as they return from their winter sojourn in the tropics. In

the North and East, the Hummingbirds will enjoy early visiting in your garden, and may be encouraged to remain for the nesting season, if you have trees like Horsechestnut (*Aesculus*) or Siberian peashrub (*Caragana arborescens*); shrubs like sweet azalea (*Rhododendron arborescens*) and swamp azalea (*R. viscosum*), Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), flowering quince (*Chaenomeles*), flame buckeye (*Aesculus splendens*), and lilacs (*Syringa*), together with a few garden flowers like iris, columbine, (*Aquilegia*), great Solomonseal (*Polygonatum commutatum*) and sweetwilliam phlox (*Phlox divaricata*). Many of these plants will have other uses, too, as the season advances; the lilacs make good nesting places for Catbirds, and the quinces will later be available for jelly-making.

There are many other plants that can be used to follow the early bloomers to hold the Hummingbirds about your garden until they are ready to depart in the autumn. The American linden, or basswood (*Tilia americana*), is a good honey tree, at the same time providing fine shade and grayish-brown drupes that are liked by squirrels and chipmunks. The Weigelas have long been popular summer-blooming shrubs, though better and harder than these is the graceful beautybush from China (*Kolkwitzia amabilis*), its clusters of pink flowers being followed by brown fruits that may also find some bird customers. The butterflybushes (*Buddleia*), vigorous growers for quick screening, many of the Cotonasters and blueberries, the New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus*), and even the ground-covering bearberry (*Arctostaphylos*), as well as the manzanitas of the West, have nectar-secreting blossoms liked by the Hummingbirds. It will be well to consider covering that trellis or fence with such vines as trumpetcreeper (*Campsis radicans*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica halliana*), morningglory (*Ipomoea*), and scarlet starglory (*Quamoclit coccinea*), to furnish more Hummer food. But watch the honeysuckle that it does not become a pest, overcoming other desirable plants.

In the Rocky Mountain region the redflowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*) will have its flowers ready for the spring arrival of the Rufous Hummingbird. Some of the currants and gooseberries are favorites of the Anna's Hummer, too. It has been said that a catalogue of the food plants of this species would almost be a botany of Southern California. This little sprite also spends the winter in California, so it makes good use of winter-blooming eucalyptus trees and the yellow flowers of the centuryplant (*Agave americana*). The loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*) is another tree that has blooms available for Hummers after the flowers of most plants have passed. The pricklypear (*Opuntia*), the tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and the bearberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*) are desirable. The matrimonyvines (*Lycium*), sprawly, thorny bushes of the arid regions, are among the preferred food plants of the Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds.

In the climate of central and south Florida, the Ruby-throats throng about such shrubs as hibiscus, waxmallow (*Malvaviscus*), flowerfence poinciana (*Poinciana pulcherrima*), cape plumbago (*Plumbago capensis*), bottlebrush (*Callistemon*), and scarlet hamelia (*Hamelia erecta*), as well as the jasmines (*Jasminum*), cape-honeysuckle (*Tecomaria capensis*), and the crossvine (*Bignonia*). At times you may find the royal poinciana trees (*Delonix regia*) in the extreme South with their flamboyant blooms sparkling with the Hummingbirds as they dart after tiny insects and probe the flowers for nectar. The blooms of banana trees attract them, too. All the while the Hummers are feeding they are picking up pollen on bill and forehead and helping to cross-

fertilize the blooms. In fact, many plants are largely dependent on Hummers for proper pollination.

Along the roadsides you will often see Hummingbirds frequenting the blooming milkweeds (*Asclepias*), jewelweed (*Impatiens*), ragged robin (*Lychnis*), and thistles (*Cirsium*), indicating that some of these should be considered for the wild flower garden. One species of the woodbetony, or lousewort, is also a main source of nectar in the West for the tiny Calliope Hummingbird.

From the following list of flowers liked by Hummingbirds, and not already mentioned, a variety of blooms will add gaiety to either perennial or annual flower garden.

Beebalm (*Monarda*)
 Bellflower (*Campanula*)
 Bouncingbet (*Saponaria*)
 Canna
 Cardinalflower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
 Coralbells (*Heuchera sanguinea*)
 Cornflower (*Centaurea*)
 Daylily (*Heemerocallis*)
 Figwort (*Scrophularia*)
 Flowering Tobacco (*Nicotiana*)
 Four-O'clock (*Mirabilis*)
 Foxglove (*Digitalis*)
 Fuchsia
 Gladiolus
 Hollyhock (*Althaea*)
 Iris
 Lantana
 Larkspur (*Delphinium*)
 Lily (*Lilium*)

Mint (*Mentha*)
 Monkeyflower (*Mimulus*)
 Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum*)
 Oriental Poppy (*Papaver orientale*)
 Paintedcup (*Castilleja*)
 Pelargonium
 Penstemon
 Petunia
 Phlox
 Rattlesnakeroot (*Prenanthes*)
 Redhotpoker or Torchlily (*Kniphofia*)
 Scabious (*Scabiosa*)
 Scarlet Runner Bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)
 Scarlet Sage (*Salvia splendens*)
 Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum*)
 Spiderflower (*Cleome*)
 Sweetwilliam (*Dianthus barbatus*)
 Tritoma
 Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia*)

In addition to the blooming plants, it is well to have your Hummer feeders ready, too, for as long a season as the Hummingbirds of your region will be present. These are glass or plastic vials or test tubes, or larger containers especially designed for these birds. They are filled with water in which sugar has been dissolved (one part sugar to two or three parts water) and hung from a tree or shrub convenient to the garden, or from the tops of garden stakes. In order to prevent ants from getting to them (which repels the Hummers), put a bit of tanglefoot around the stake near the ground. A small syringe is convenient for refilling the containers. As the Hummers find these "soda bars," they may be moved closer to the porch or patio until the birds are feeding from your hand. Many feeding places for the Hummingbirds will keep down the competition and fighting among them, and allowing a few dead twigs and limbs to remain on trees and shrubs will furnish desirable perches for these birds.

As you encourage the Hummingbirds about your home, you will have the pleasure, not only of watching their feeding habits, but of seeing the building of the delicate nest of plant down from willow, milkweed, thistle, or cinnamon fern. No larger than a fifty-cent piece, and often covered with lichen and cobweb, you may see in it the two tiny eggs, the size of pea beans, and the young looking almost like bees until they assume their feather coats. While you may be distressed that the male Hummer takes little interest in the family, leaving all its care to his mate, you will thrill at the marvelous pendulum courtship dance in which he indulges.

Remember, too, that Hummingbirds are not the only birds that like nec-



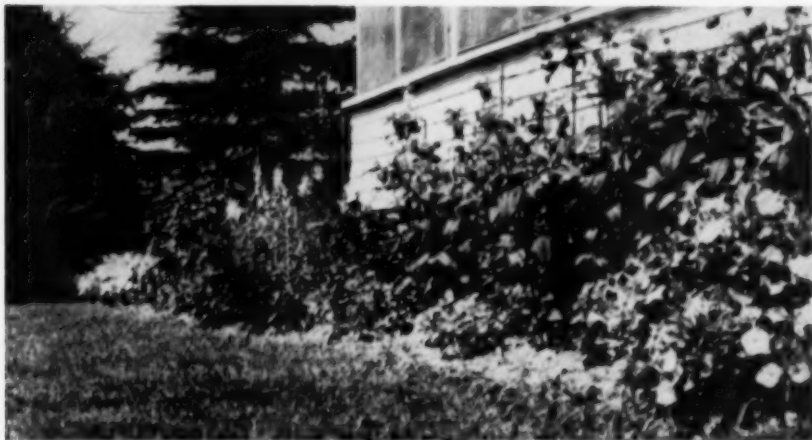
Hummingbird Planting

On an irregular plot at Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary planned by Wildwood Camp students, Sanctuary Director David R. Miner noticed that in 1954 the Ruby-throats stayed longer than usual in the fall, possibly encouraged by late-blooming Delphinium. A mulch of hardwood sawdust on this planting proved effective in weed and moisture control.

Key to Planting Sketch

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Hall's Japanese Honeysuckle
(<i>Lonicera japonica halliana</i>) | 7. Beautybush (<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i>) | 14. Flowering Tobacco (<i>Nicotiana</i>) |
| 2. Trumpet creeper (<i>Campsis radicans</i>) | 8. Bush Honeysuckle (<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>) | 15. Beebalm (<i>Monarda didyma</i>) or Coral- |
| 3. Morningglory (<i>Ipomoea</i>) | 9. Great Solomonseal
(<i>Polygonatum commutatum</i>) | bells (<i>Heuchera</i>) |
| Improved Heavenly Blue | 10. Lowbush Blueberry
(<i>Vaccinium vacillans</i>) | 16. Sweetwilliam Phlox (<i>Phlox divaricata</i>) |
| 4. Scarlet Starglory (<i>Quamoclit coccinea</i>) | 11. Butterflybush (<i>Buddleia alternifolia</i>) | 17. Petunia — Balcony Rose |
| 5. Scarlet Runner Bean (<i>Phaseolus</i>) | 12. Delphinium—Belladonna and hybrids | 18. Hollyhock (<i>Althaea</i>) |
| 6. Highbush Blueberry
(<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>) | 13. Spiderflower (<i>Cleome</i>) | 19. Wildflower Corner with Jewelweed
(<i>Impatiens</i>), Milkweed (<i>Asclepias</i>),
Mints (<i>Mentha</i>) |

tar. Orioles have a "sweet tooth," too, Catbirds and Brown Thrashers may be attracted, and some day you may be surprised to find a Cape May Warbler or other member of the clan visiting your Hummer feeders or probing the garden flowers.



EDWIN A. MASON

This hummingbird planting in front of the porch at Arcadia Sanctuary headquarters includes Beebalm, Delphinium, and Petunia and has attracted many Ruby-throats over the years.

Enjoy the Outdoors in May

BY RICHARD HEADSTROM

Examine the buds of trees and observe how the tender young leaves are beginning to push their way out of their protective armor.

Look for the Redstart in a shaded thicket. You will enjoy watching the wild antics of the little warbler as it darts and whirls in pursuit of insects.

Note the masses of bluets in field and meadow.

When lilacs are in bloom be on the lookout for tiger swallowtails, the familiar large showy yellow and black butterflies. The butterfly is of more than passing interest, for below the 40° latitude two forms may develop from the same lot of eggs.

Note the countless catkins that droop from the branches of oaks and hickories. The flowers lack petals so that the wind may more effectively distribute the copious pollen.

Watch for the flashing red of the Scarlet Tanager, vivid against the blue sky.

In rich woods look for the fringed polygala.

In the vicinity of ponds and streams observe swarms of May flies dancing in the air. These insects are able to feed and live only long enough to mate. Their nymphal lives, however, may last as long as three years.

Observe that blossoming thorns, with their white, round-petaled flowers and pink-tipped stamens, reveal a kinship to the apples.

Look for the Yellow Warbler in brushy swamps. This animated sunbeam is a delight to watch as it cavorts among the willows, alders, and red maples.

Note the appearance of squash bugs in your garden. Aside from being a pest, the insect has a claim to fame in that it was used for research in the germinal relations of sex.

Where Woodchucks are found, be on the watch for the appearance of the young chucklings.

Look for small black caterpillars with white and yellow stripes hanging by silken strands from the branches of a tree. Watch them as they lower themselves part way to the ground and then climb back again, like sailors going up a rope. Find out what happens to the thread as they make their way upward.

Watch for the first dandelion to appear on your lawn. This pestiferous weed is botanically a most successful plant. Observe the single flower head with many florets, the hollow pliant stalk, bitter leaves, and deep taproot and you will see how well adapted it is for survival.

Listen for the returning Wood Thrush. Its song is excelled by few birds.

Visit a slow-running brook or quiet pond and watch the curious water striders as they skate over the surface of the water. Find out why they do not break the surface film.

Examine a violet flower. Note the veins and the beards on the spurred lower petal and the two side petals. The former serve as guide lines to the nectaries for visiting bees, and the latter provide a foothold for the insects.

After a heavy rain, look for the so-called "fairy rings." These rings are formed by various mushrooms, but the best-known are the rings formed by the fairy ring mushroom.

Observe the white frothy masses on various grasses and herbs. They are made by insects called froghoppers and serve as a protective covering for the young.

Look for the wild columbine in rocky places and note the peculiar structure of the flowers, adapted for pollination chiefly by the larger bumblebees and the Hummingbird.

Note that blueberries are in blossom.

Observe the countless fiddleheads of ferns as they unroll above the ground.

Look for jack-in-the-pulpit in swampy woodlands.

On a moist night go out with a flashlight and look for mating earthworms on your lawn or in the garden.

Listen for the plaintive call of the Wood Pewee.

Look for the appearance of a small, reddish-brown butterfly. This is the spring form of the pearl crescent. There is a later summer form. The two forms vary so much that at one time they were considered separate species.

Observe how the soft feathery flowers of the early meadowrue appear like fleecy clouds in shaded woodlands.

In the shade of hemlocks look for the showy orchis, the first of the orchid family to blossom.

Near the shore of a pond look for the nest of mating sunfish. It is a saucerlike basin about a foot in diameter and several inches deep, excavated in the bottom sand, usually in a mass of dense vegetation.

Note that the yellow umbels of the early meadow parsnip bear a resemblance to the wild carrot of summer.

Examine a near-by ditch for horsehair snakes, which are not snakes at all, but worms.

Arcadia In The Connecticut River Valley

BY MARJORY BARTLETT SANGER



WALTER SIBLEY

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary as it looks from the air or from the heights of Mt. Tom.

In the Golden Age of Greece "Arcadia" meant a land of pastoral peace and pleasure, with its special god Pan patron of nature and music. To Sir Philip Sydney it was an Elizabethan utopia. Today we have our Arcadia, too.

Situated in both Northampton and Easthampton, the line between them running through, with the great curve of the Connecticut River Oxbow bending around it, Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary is a three-hundred-acre refuge of woodland, meadow, and marsh where wild creatures and vegetation abound free and unmolested. "Wood Duck" signs along Route 10 point the way to this outdoor museum.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy S. Combs, the land was operated as a private sanctuary as early as 1932. In 1944 the property was purchased by Professor and Mrs. Zechariah Chafee, Jr., and presented to the Massachusetts Audubon Society in memory of their son, Robert Searle Chafee, who died at the age of twenty-six, having found in his brief life "happiness in watching birds and exploring the wild places where they live."

The Sanctuary's propitious site is at "the crossing of the Connecticut River by the long valley from New Haven northeastward, and the convergency of these two migration routes brings hordes of transients to a pause at Arcadia." So wrote Aaron Clark Bagg in 1938, and so it has proved to be. Over two hundred species have been recorded here. Wood Ducks and Black Ducks may be seen at all seasons, except when the marsh, "the heart of Arcadia," is frozen. Migrating ducks come in with the first open water. In March the

cattails resound with the call of the Red-wings. And swallows in summer slant in tremendous flocks over the Oxbow. Rails and both marsh wrens and the Northern Water-Thrush have nested at the marsh, with the Grasshopper Sparrow in a field near by. And the Duck Hawk nests on the cliffs of Mt. Tom, to the southeast, where hawk migrations are regularly watched, and where against a soft blue sky a Turkey Vulture may soar lazily. Rarities that have been seen at Arcadia include the Snow Goose, Old-squaw, Black Tern, Bicknell's Thrush, and the James Bay Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The Sanctuary was the scene of early banding of Evening Grosbeaks, and has been the headquarters for the Connecticut Valley Evening Grosbeak Survey.

The woodlands of Arcadia are becoming a "museum forest" of value for study purposes, as well as for their majestic and moving beauty. Here the White-tailed Deer may be seen, and the Flying Squirrel. Here the dappled floor is bright with ferns, with trillium and jack-in-the-pulpit and pink mosses. Cardinal flowers stand at the water's edge; purple-flowering raspberry and doll's eye dogwood bend along the trails. The Oriental chestnut, Chinese bushcherry, and Russian olive have been introduced at Arcadia, as have numerous hollies. The sanctuary director, skilled in plant propagation, has long been particularly concerned with wildlife food plants. Quantities of berry-bearing trees and shrubs and a hummingbird planting give evidence of his interest in planning a sanctuary with all natural forms in mind. Friends of Arcadia have donated wildflowers from time to time, and these are always welcome. The Katharine Woods Memorial, a fragrant garden around a naturalistic pool, with Mt. Tom as a background, brings many birds to the Sanctuary lawn.

The Norman Studio, just off the Cedar Trail, provides a quiet retreat for relaxation or creative work.

Smith College graduates may fondly recollect a bridle path through the Sanctuary where once an old bridge carried trolley cars across Arcadia Marsh. This bridge, partially washed out in the 1938 hurricane, is now gone altogether. Not far from the tracks was a pine-shaded amusement area called Marshall's Grove, where, at the turn of the century, during the brief heyday of the trolley car, picnics and square dances were held.

But Arcadia is more than just a sanctuary. It is "the representation of the Massachusetts Audubon Society and what it stands for to the general public in the Connecticut Valley." At the Sanctuary residence, there is an office, also a library and store and gathering place for all who come. Trail maps may be obtained at all seasons for exploring the woods and fields and wetlands.

The Barn provides a large meeting room and workshop. Barn Swallows fly in and out among the lofts and rafters, as do bats on summer evenings, and Cliff Swallows collect mud from the road to plaster their nests beneath the eaves on the wide white-washed clapboards.

It was in this Barn that the first Arcadia Nature Workshop was held in the summer of 1947. Year after year it has grown until now there are active day camps for boys and girls of the valley in full swing throughout July and August.

No notes about Arcadia could be complete without some mention of the Campout. On a week end in the middle of May each year, bird lovers gather under the maples, and from Friday evening through Sunday all daylight hours are spent watching the warblers flash like jewels along Fern Trail, or seeking out the Duck Hawk and Worm-eating Warbler on Mount Tom, or Water-

Thrushes at the Sunderland fish hatcheries. At dusk the flight song of the Woodcock falls across the Sanctuary fields. But the Campout is more than a listing of birds. It is the good fellowship and boundless satisfaction that comes from sharing with companions a love of the out-of-doors.

From the time when he first came in 1944 to assume its management, the spirit behind Arcadia has been Edwin A. Mason. And anyone who has met him knows that it is a unique spirit. At school in his native England, Mr. Mason specialized in the field of agriculture. In this country he spent fifteen years in charge of the Wharton Bird Banding Station at Groton. The combination of these pursuits, together with his interest in wildlife management and in young people, has fitted him well for his position as director of a sanctuary. Readers will remember his many stimulating articles on plants and plantings, the feeding of wild birds, and "Management on the Home Sanctuary," as well as vivid sketches of Arcadia. His wife, Mina, a hostess of great charm, and two nature-loving daughters, Sylvia and Patsy, complete the Mason family.

Much of Arcadia still lies ahead. Plans have already been drawn for a trailside museum and assembly hall, a laboratory and workshop. Additional land has recently been acquired; more may come. Perhaps one day a dam will be built to stabilize the water level in the marsh for the protection of waterfowl. These are dreams now, to be sure, but it was just such dreams that made this land "of pastoral peace and pleasure" the reality that the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary is today.

May Walks Scheduled in Boston Public Garden

Bird watching in the Boston Public Garden is gaining in popularity every year. Again this spring regular noon walks will be conducted by Audubon staff members during the first two weeks of May. Walks will be conducted each week day from May 2 to 6 and from May 9 to 13, from 12:30 to 1:00 and from 1:00 to 1:30. They will start at the Arlington Street gate near Newbury Street.

Additional State-wide Bird Walks Planned

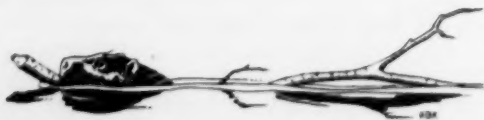
In addition to the walks listed in the April *Bulletin*, the following have also been arranged for Saturday, May 7:

<u>Town</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>
Beverly	Bertram Leadbeater	Ryal Side School, Bridge Street. 8:00 A.M.
Bolton	Mrs. Howard A. Mayo	Leader's home, Main Street. 8:00 A.M.
Framingham	Albert Torrey	APRIL 30. 10:00 A.M. Grange Hall.
Hubbardston	Miss Helen L. Murdock	6:30 A.M. Home of Douglas Murdock.
Ware	Lester R. Marland	Entrance to Grenville Park, opposite High School. 8:00 A.M.

Summer Schedule at Audubon House

During the months of June, July and August, Audubon House will be closed on Saturdays. The regular schedule will be resumed after Labor Day.

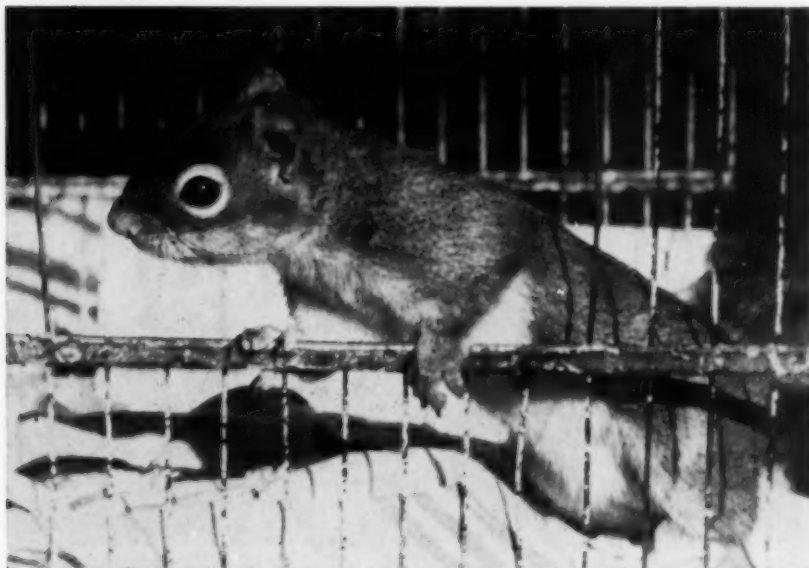
LOOKING AHEAD



- May 1-7 AUDUBON WEEK.
- May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Continuing "THREE KINGDOMS," Introductory Conservation and Natural Science Course. Audubon House. Tuesday mornings, 10:15-11:45.
- May 3, 10, 17 Continuing "THREE KINGDOMS," Introductory Conservation and Natural Science Course. Audubon House. Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00.
- May 4, 11, 18, 25 Continuing INTERMEDIATE BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE. Audubon House. 7:30-9:00.
- May 4, 11, 18 Continuing "WEB OF LIFE," Intermediate Conservation and Natural Science Course. Field Trip.
- May 5 Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton. HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB WALK. Leader: Professor William Randall, Department of Physical Education, University of Massachusetts. 7:00 P.M. WOODCOCK FLIGHT SONG. A twilight excursion. 8:30 P.M. Leader: Edwin A. Mason.
- May 5, 12, 19 Continuing "WEB OF LIFE," Intermediate Conservation and Natural Science Course. Audubon House, 7:30-9:00.
- May 5, 12, 19, 26 Continuing INTERMEDIATE BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE. Audubon House. Thursday mornings.
- May 7 STATE-WIDE AUDUBON WALKS and OPEN HOUSE AT AUDUBON SANCTUARIES.
- May 9-13 BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN WALKS, 12:30 to 1:30.
- May 11 Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield. Continuing Elementary Course in Bird Study. 8:00 P.M.
- May 12 Cook's Canyon, Barre. Thursday evening Bird Walk.
- May 13-15 CONNECTICUT VALLEY CAMPOUT.
- May 19 Cook's Canyon, Barre. Thursday evening Bird Walk.
- May 19 Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton. "WILDFLOWERS AND FERNS." Leader: Earle H. Thomas, Chairman, Arcadia Advisory Committee. "BIRDS AS YOU FIND THEM." David and Lilian Riedel. 7:00 P.M.
- May 19 Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield. 6:00 P.M. Picnic supper and Conducted Walk.
- May 21 Rocky Knoll, Milton. Open House, 4:00-6:00 P.M.
- May 22 AUDUBON FIELD TRIP to North Shore.
- May 25 Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton. Meeting of Hampshire County Garden Club. 7:00 P.M.
- May 26 Cook's Canyon, Barre. Thursday evening Bird Walk.
- May 26 Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield. 6:00 P.M. Picnic supper and Conducted Walk.
- May 26 Arcadia Sanctuary, Northampton. 7:00 P.M. "PROPAGATING PLANTS FOR BIRDS." Alfred W. Boicourt, Extension Specialist in Horticulture, University of Massachusetts. "A LOOK AT THE WARBLERS AND SWALLOWS. Leaders: Professors Lawrence Bartlett and William Nutting, Department of Zoology, University of Massachusetts.
- June 8-10 AUDUBON TEACHERS CONFERENCE. Mount Greylock.
- June 10-12 BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT.
- June 15-25 CONSERVATION AND NATURAL SCIENCE WORKSHOP, Barre.

Peterkin Is A "Distinct" Mammal

By EMILY GOODE



EMILY GOODE

A few years ago when I was giving the Audubon conservation course in Marshfield, the fifth grade teacher brought in an armful of old *National Geographic Magazines*. To our happy amazement, the youngsters browsed eagerly, many reading the text as well as enjoying the pictures. One boy reported, wide-eyed, "You know everything in these magazines is *true!*" Another gave an excited account of the discovery of a mammoth, its carcass perfectly preserved frozen in a block of ice in Siberia. He added wistfully, "Boy, wouldn't I like to discover a real *distinct* mammal and tell the world about it."

I recalled this incident when a Nantucket teacher asked me please to use "Peterkin," my Red Squirrel, for a complete lesson and not just tuck him in as a visual aid in a mammal lesson, "because the children who've never been off-island have never seen a squirrel, and he's about the cutest thing that ever happened."

Peterkin is one of a litter of three orphans brought to me four years ago. The other two orphans, Polly and Patsy, after many short excursions in the woods finally found mates and set up squirrel housekeeping, but not so with Peterkin. Either he knew a good thing when he saw it and appreciated his cozy cage and fine fare, or else he enjoys his bachelorhood after being teased and fought over by his boisterous sisters. Whatever the reason, he makes brief trips outside his cage and runs back whenever a sudden motion startles him.

In the Nantucket classes about twenty children saw their first squirrel when Peterkin ran from the cage onto my shoulder. He looked at his eager

audience, then deliberately washed his face, giving particular attention to the inside of his peaked ears. His front paws were washed to the elbows, then, with a vigorous scrubbing of his stomach, he was ready to inspect the youngsters.

I had warned against sudden motions, which always sent him scurrying back to the cage, and I had asked the children to observe all they could and try to reconstruct his way of life from his appearance. One boy said this sure ought to be easier when you had a new live animal instead of an old fossil, the way most scientists did.

As Peterkin romped, the comments poured in. "His nostrils slant like a deer's so he smells in the air, and I don't think he digs with his nose, it isn't flat enough."

"His eyes are on the sides so he must have enemies."

"But he goes so fast he can get away."

"His tail helps him jump."

"He has claws for climbing."

"He has fat hips like a rabbit so he can leap."

"There are little balls on his feet. Do they help him jump?"

"I think he's kind of dumb. His head's flat where his brains are."

"If he stayed in oak trees his color would match the dried leaves."

Peterkin gnawed a pecan, and the children were so quiet they could hear his teeth grinding on the nut. I offered more and, by this time quite at home in the schoolroom, he ran about hiding a nut inside a girl's collar, in the crook of a boy's elbow, in an inkwell.

"If he hid nuts outdoors he'd be planting trees. We ought to have him down here, then the town wouldn't have to plant the burned-over land."

The lesson ended all too soon, but not before Peterkin's rodent relatives were discussed and the other ten orders of mammals had been mentioned.

The four-year-old squirrel is a personable little fellow. I'm sure he was as warmly, if not as wonderingly, received in the schools where a squirrel is well known. In Weston, where the children live with affectionate awareness of the birds and mammals in their home grounds, Peterkin emerged from various pockets with squash seeds, sunflower seeds, and even a blob of peanut butter. A boy explained, "We carry these things because you never know when you'll happen to meet a Chickadee!"

Among Our Contributors

ROGER BARTON, of Caldwell, New Jersey, president of the New Jersey Audubon Society, is the author of *How to Watch Birds*, published last month by McGraw-Hill. Since 1947 he has written a column called "Outdoors" for the Newark *Sunday News*. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia University, Mr. Barton spends his time, when not in the field, in lecturing on advertising at the Graduate School of Business at Columbia, editing advertising publications, contributing material on the subject to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, and serving as president of the National Conference of Business Paper Editors.

JEAN GILMORE PYLE, whose interesting letter appears here under Correspondence, was born in Orange, N. J., moving to California at the age of four. She was graduated from the University of California in 1952 and received her master's degree from Cornell the next year. Interested in whatever pertains to oriental culture, she served for a while as assistant leader of a troop of Chinese girl scouts. A former member of the Audubon staff, Jean Pyle taught in our school program in the Berkshires, also at the Workshop, and recently returned to California to do museum work and teaching.



Governor Christian A. Herter signs the Audubon Week proclamation in the presence of staff and committee members of the Society. Left to right: Marjory B. Sanger, Director of Public Relations; Edwin C. Johnson and Richard Borden, of the Public Relations Committee; C. Russell Mason, Executive Director; and Gertrude M. McGeoch, Administrative Assistant and for thirty years a member of the staff of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Governor Proclaims Audubon Week

For the second year His Excellency Christian A. Herter has proclaimed the first week in May as Audubon Week, "in continued recognition of the nineteenth century achievements of John James Audubon, conservationist and wildlife artist, who urged the protection of birds and mammals that even then were disappearing from the earth, and to emphasize the conservation program being carried on by the organizations bearing his name, particularly the Massachusetts Audubon Society, founded in this Commonwealth in 1896."

Governor Herter paid tribute to the Audubon courses in conservation and natural science presented in grade schools and camps throughout the State. He further recommended that the citizens of the Commonwealth, for their own physical and mental well-being, participate as much as possible in the field trips and other outdoor programs planned for the week of May 1 through May 7.

Over one hundred bird walks have been scheduled by the Massachusetts Audubon Society for Audubon Day, May 7. Many will attend open house that day at the five sanctuaries of the Society which have resident directors, and where walks and special displays have been arranged. During this week

and the following week, Monday through Friday, a series of noon walks will be conducted in the Boston Public Garden for business people or others desiring guidance in observing birds.

Audubon Week affords an excellent opportunity to stress the recreational value of the out-of-doors, the proper use of our natural areas, and to call attention to the need for practical conservation activities.

From the Editors' Sanctum—May, 1955

Observe, Remember, and Compare

Thomas Edison, whose place in the Hall of Fame is assured, is quoted as saying that, to achieve success, one should be trained to "OBSERVE, REMEMBER, and COMPARE."

This quotation was brought to my mind as I read Miss Goode's account of her pet squirrel Peterkin and the reactions of the Nantucket school children as they watched the lively little creature. The bright-eyed youngster who described the squirrel's nostrils had unknowingly followed Edison's formula; he had *observed* the peculiar arrangement of the slitlike nasal openings of both the squirrel and a deer; he *remembered* what he had observed; he *compared* his observations and drew deductions from the comparison. And this Nantucket lad is not alone in such use of his natural powers; hundreds of school children in our courses in Conservation and Natural Science are being taught to do the same things — to observe, remember, and compare.

We offer no guarantee of financial or social success for all followers of this formula, but we believe very firmly that an eye trained to observe nature in its various phases is a definite factor in insuring mental and spiritual success, happiness, and contentment. And what better success can one achieve than happiness and contentment, shared with others in this troubled world? Some of the fifteen thousand school children who are this year receiving our courses will, of course, never profit by the opportunities offered them, but will go on through life unseeing, for "eyes have they, but they see not." How much more fortunate are those whose eyes are being opened and who are storing away in memory the things they have observed?

The educational program of the Massachusetts Audubon Society is unique and outstanding. In no other State is work of this sort being carried out with anything like comparable results. A few years ago the Florida Audubon Society attempted (with our hearty co-operation) to undertake a similar program, but the peculiar setup of Florida's school system militated against its success. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island, under the stimulus of Roland Clement, has joined hands with our Massachusetts society in starting courses in several Rhode Island communities and hopes soon to be able to swing a State-wide program without our further assistance. And Mrs. Emery, of our editorial staff, just returned from a trip to California, reports that wherever she went with birding groups our work was known and brought forth comments and pertinent questioning. To paraphrase Daniel Webster's well-known saying, "I shall enter on no encomiums upon the Massachusetts Audubon Society; it needs none. There it is. Behold it, and judge for yourselves."

J. B. M.

Audubon Field Trip

SUNDAY, MAY 22. To Audubon wildlife sanctuaries north of Boston for spring migrants. Nahant Thicket, Marblehead Neck, and Ipswich River Sanctuaries. Fare and guide fee, \$3.00. Fee for those using private cars and following bus, 75 cents per person.

Unless otherwise noted, *all Audubon field trips* will leave Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston, at 8:15 A.M. by chartered bus, returning at approximately 7:00 P.M. Above trips on Daylight Saving Time.



SANCTUARY NEWS

March, a time of stirrings and awakenings, is always a busy month at the sanctuaries, with migrants to be watched for, early blooms to be discovered, and more hours to spend on outdoor projects as the daylight lengthens. The bridge on the Lone Cedar Trail at Pleasant Valley was completed, and trail work and the burning of brush occupied most of Alvah Sanborn's time. David Miner found that the rosebushes he planted near the house proved their worth as bird food when Robins and Cedar Waxwings feasted on rose hips all month long. Robins were observed at Moose Hill during the first week of March, with large migrating flocks of 100-130, mostly males, quite common from the 10th to the 15th. Five Robins came to Pleasant Valley for the first time on the 12th.

Evening Grosbeaks were seen every day at Cook's Canyon, but the flocks varied from a high of 45 on the 13th to a low of 8 on the 25th. Grosbeaks also remained at Arcadia in good numbers, but Purple Finches, normally present from mid-February on, were completely absent. Fox Sparrows were reported in unusually large numbers by Ed Mason; ten in a flock first visited Pleasant Valley on the 11th; and as many as 12 were snapping the dried leaves of the forest floor at Moose Hill.

The dinning of Rusty Blackbirds in the Maple Swamp at Ipswich River provided a constant reassurance of early spring. Waterfowl there included a high count of over 400 Black Ducks, 30 American Golden-eyes, 20 Wood Ducks, 3 Hooded Mergansers, many Canada Geese, several Green-winged Teal, a Coot, Pintail, and Pied-billed Grebe. Alvah Sanborn saw Rusty Blackbirds on the 13th and Wood Ducks on the 30th, while to Arcadia marsh during the month came the Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, and both the Hooded and American Mergansers.

On March 12 Elmer Foye watched a flock of 27 Northern Horned Larks drifting over the hilltop field, while Tree Swallows dipped over the water on the 13th. These arrived at Cook's Canyon on the 31st, a week earlier than last year. And on the 16th the Miners were treated to the mating dance of the cock Pheasant, the cock spreading his tail and one wing, and running in circles around the hen. The passionate flight songs of 6 Woodcock filled the evening sky at Ipswich River; a Winter Wren bobbed in a hurricane tangle there; and the tremulous cry of a Screech Owl haunted the nights.

Other birds returned: the Pileated Woodpecker to Pleasant Valley; Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Marsh, Duck, and Sparrow Hawks to Arcadia, with the Bald Eagle, Osprey, Killdeer, and Wilson's Snipe; the Phoebe to its favorite nesting place at the Moose Hill barn; and on the 30th at Ipswich River Tree Swallows slanted about their nesting boxes, a meaningful moment in the record of spring.

Melting ice and snow at Cook's Canyon formed a shallow pool in one corner of the garden, where Starlings and English Sparrows splashed and

enjoyed a bath. Although the temperature of the water was 34° , and the air 36° , the scene had a quality about it that was definitely vernal.

Fairy shrimp, also a significant index to spring, were found by Albert Bussewitz at midmonth in a local pond where the spring peepers, although later than usual, filled the air with their poignant piping. Otter, Mink, and Weasel tracks were found by Elmer Foye along Mile Brook. A Raccoon, lured by peanut butter, made regular nocturnal visits for a week to Alvah Sanborn's porch. And the first sprightly Chipmunk was seen at Moose Hill on the 13th, where the cornelian cherry dogwood provided an early touch of golden yellow, with the height of bloom approached by the month's end.

In the excitement of spring, time was found to add footage to the forthcoming film about Pleasant Valley. Ed Mason addressed half a dozen groups, appeared on a panel at the Recreation Conference at the University of Massachusetts, and met with a committee of the Hampshire County Garden Club, which was set up to help with Arcadia's fern and wildflower garden. A complete set to date of Arthur Cleveland Bent's famous *Life Histories* was presented to the Arcadia library by two branches of the Chafee family, while other welcome gifts of books were received from Florence and Holyoke.

M. B. S.

The New Balscope Sr. Binocular



The F. C. Meichsner Co., which is familiar to many of our members as headquarters for binocular sales and service, is now advertising an astonishing new development in binocular history, the new Twin Balscope Sr. 60 mm. Binocular, which consists of two B & L Balscope Sr. 60 mm. Spotting Scopes

combined scientifically with perfect collimation for stereo binocular vision. The mount is so designed that it has an interpupillary adjustment to fit any observer.

This instrument is now available in two models. Model A-Twin Balscope Sr. Binocular, consisting of the newly designed turrets, power ranges from 15x to 60x. Magnification can be varied by simply rotating the turret. In this way, the eye pieces are free from dirt and dust, with any power at your fingertips. Model B-Twin Balscope Sr. Binocular, without turrets, your choice of eye pieces, powers 15x — 20x — 30x — 60x. Carrying cases are included with either model.

There has been nothing on the market like this in twenty years. This Twin Balscope Sr. is much more compact, lighter, and easier to handle and with greater power than earlier models. Your present Balscope Sr. and accessories can be used, saving considerable expense. (See Meichsner's advertisement in this issue of the *Bulletin*.)



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

True Conservationists All

Important as we consider an increased enrollment for the Society, we never fail to take into account the quality of our membership, which, in the last analysis, is the truest indication of our strength. To us an Audubon member is first of all — by nature or by education — a conservator of life, of beauty, and of natural resources. Surely the Audubon program would hardly appeal to a destructive or wasteful individual. Also, an Audubon member is a practical person, who acts upon his convictions by becoming a member, and then expects action on the part of the Society. Above all, he is a patriotic or public-spirited individual, a citizen proud of his heritage and desirous of fulfilling his whole obligation to his country, his fellow men, and to future generations. In short, he represents that element of human society to which the world is ever indebted for any measure of peace and progress it may enjoy. And so we salute our Audubon members while we covet their increase.

We welcome the following new members at this time and continue to be heartened by the increased support from older members.

Life Member

***Bagg, Aaron Moore, Holyoke

Contributing Members

**Alpers, Moses, Salem

Bailey, H. L., Cotuit

**Breed, Richard P., Swampscott

**Brigham, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H.,
Winchester

Donnan, David Hibbs, Boxford

MacLellan, Miss Helen W., Osterville

Supporting Members

*Baldwin, Mrs. Edward A., Natick

Ballou, Mrs. Charles C., Uxbridge

*Day, Mrs. Louis C.,

W. Stewartstown, N. H.

Hitchcock, Miss Polly, Cotuit

*Latham, Mrs. Allen, Jr., Jamaica Plain

Leahy, Francis T., Brookline

*Long, Mrs. Harry J., Westport, Conn.

*Mason, Mrs. Fred S., Brockton

*Morgan, Miss Ruth E., Laconia, N. H.

Rennie, Mr. and Mrs. W. C., Cotuit

Sawyer, Miss Marion, Osterville

Spear, Ellis, Newton Ctr.

*Stewart, Mrs. Ashley D., Somerset Ctr.

Sutherland, Mrs. Robert, Lexington

*Tucker, Mrs. F. Curtis, Bridgewater

*Wilson, Mrs. Harold M., Bolton

*Transferred from Active Membership

**Transferred from Supporting
Membership

***Transferred from Contributing
Membership

Active Members

Allen, Mrs. Clifford, Brattleboro, Vt.

Bachrach, Miss Dorothy, Wellesley Hills

Ball, William G., Cotuit

Barger, Mrs. Lucretia B., Cotuit

Barker, Mrs. Everett, Weymouth

Belden, Edgar T., Leeds

Bessom, Mrs. Earl A., Marblehead

Blatchford, Miss Kathleen, Hingham

Botello, Mrs. John R., Santuit

Boyden, Miss Alice, Brattleboro, Vt.

Bradbury, Mrs. Walter E., Springfield

Brigham, Miss Ruth M., Worcester

Brogan, Michael, Pittsfield

Brown, Mrs. Edward P., Boston

Busk, F. Wadsworth, Concord

Cavallini, Mrs. William C., Kingston

Chamberlain, Miss Katharine, Beverly

Cooch, Mrs. Lester W., Abington

Coutts, David, Jamaica Plain

Crocker, Miss Emma H., Cotuit

David, Freeman A., Taunton

Davis, Mrs. Howard C., S. Carver

DiMarzio, Miss Esther, N. Plymouth

Drapeau, Benjamin, Malden

Edwards, Mrs. O. M., Cazenovia, N. Y.

Finch, Miss Jerry, Short Hills, N. J.

Flagg, William, Hingham

Foster, Miss Anne M., Arlington, Va.

Foster School, Sixth Grade, Hingham

Fuller, Mrs. Orrin, Hyannis

Gardner, David R., Milton

Gavutis, George W., Jr., Lawrence

Germain, Mrs. Winifred, Framingham
 Gladstone, Richard B., Wellesley Hills
 Goldthwaite, Mrs. C. E., Weymouth
 Graham, Mrs. John M., Wellesley Hills
 Grandone, Mrs. Raymond, Needham
 Grey, Sumner K., Weston
 Guild, Mrs. Joseph, Dedham
 Haller, Dr. David A., Chatham
 Halvorson, William H., D.M.D.,
 Berlin, N. H.

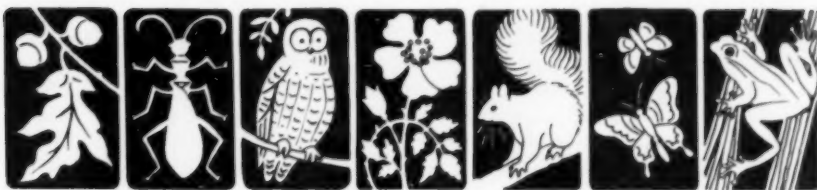
Handrahan, William, Hingham
 Haynes, Richard, Reading
 Hoadley, Mrs. Edwin, Weymouth
 Holmes, Albert H., Kingston
 Hunnewell, Mrs. William, Belmont
 Jackson, Miss Faith, Bourne
 James, R. A., Rockport
 Jenkins, John S., Detroit, Mich.
 Jones, Robert A., Kingston
 Kaye, Mrs. Philip A., Brookline
 Keltz, Mrs. Ragnhild H., Springfield
 Kendall, Mrs. Irwin S., Brattleboro, Vt.
 Kimball, Mrs. Mildred A., Alton, N. H.
 Landers, Mrs. Edward E., Cotuit
 Latham, Miss Harriet, Jamaica Plain
 Lindsey, Mrs. Mary E., Sturbridge
 Lockhart, Mrs. James A., Revere
 Luening, Mrs. Eugene A., Kingston
 Mack, Mrs. W. J., Brattleboro, Vt.
 Martin, Miss Beatrice Kathryn, Boston
 Mathews, Mrs. Constance, Lenox
 Mills, Mrs. John H., New Canaan, Conn.
 Mitchell, Mrs. Joseph K., Edgartown
 Moran, Miss Frances P., Cambridge
 Morelle, Paul, Woonsocket, R. I.
 Murphy, Mrs. Barbara M., Centerville

Myer, Mrs. C. Randolph, Wilton, N. H.
 Nichols, W. I., W. Peabody
 Norton, Mrs. Donald, Winter Park, Fla.
 Norton, Miss Helen, Boston
 Norwood, Miss E. Christine, Winchester
 Parsons, R. T., Weston
 Potter, Richard C., Worcester
 Pray, Mrs. Frank G., Greenfield
 Prugh, Mrs. Dane G., Weston
 Reynolds, Mrs. Harris A., Belmont
 Richardson, L. E., Concord
 Roethlisberger, Mrs. F. J., Cambridge
 Rourke, John J., Dorchester
 Ryan, William E., Silver Spring, Md.
 Ryder, Mrs. Malcolm E., Marston Mills
 Ryder, Mrs. Richard H., Cotuit
 Ryder, Wallace, Jr., Cotuit
 Sayward, Mrs. William S., S. Walpole
 Schereschewsky, Mrs. H. W., Andover
 Simonds, Mrs. Stuart, Putney, Vt.
 Steinberg, David, Watertown
 Stillings, Mrs. Clara C., N. Andover
 Strong, Mrs. Henry W., Brattleboro, Vt.
 Sylvester, John, Hanover
 Tetlow, Mrs. M. W., Sharon
 Thorne, Carlton R., Sagamore
 Thorne, Mrs. Carlton R., Sagamore
 Towne, Mrs. E. R., N. Weymouth
 Verrill, Miss Sandra, Hingham
 White, Miss Josephine, Boston
 Will, Mrs. Irving M., Wilbraham
 Wood, Charles, E. Providence, R. I.
 Woodward, Mrs. Clark E.,
 Temple, N. H.
 Wykoff, Jack N., Philadelphia, Pa.

Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- May 2, 8 a.m. Hoffmann Bird Club Trip to Adams.
 May 2, 7:30 p.m. Arts and Crafts meeting.
 May 5, 7:30 p.m. Course in Color Photography, by John W. Doscher.
 May 5, 6. "The 3rd Bi-Centennial Chemical Meeting," G.E.
 May 6, 7:30 p.m. Course in Color Photography, by John W. Doscher.
 May 7, 8 a.m. Hoffmann Bird Club Trip for Junior Members only.
 May 8, 8 a.m. Hoffmann Bird Club Trip to Richmond.
 May 11, 12. Exhibition of Hooked Rugs, by pupils of Mrs. I. S. F. Dodd.
 May 11, 8 p.m. Annual Meeting of Camera Club. Print Competition.
 May 12, 13, 14, 8:30 p.m. Town Players, "The Constant Wife," by W. Somerset Maugham.
 May 14, 6 a.m. Hoffmann Bird Club Trip to Bartholomew's Cobble, Ashley Falls.
 May 14, 3 p.m. Opening Tea, for Junior Art Class.
 May 15. Play, produced by Mt. Carmel Church.
 May 18, 8 p.m. Pittsfield Community Music School Graduation Recital.
 May 18, 2 p.m. Berkshire Museum Auxiliary Meeting.
 May 20, 7:45 p.m. Nature Night. (Free)
 May 21. Hoffmann Bird Club, Annual All-day Century Run.
 May 25, 8 p.m. Pittsfield Community Music School, Spring Recital.



EDUCATIONAL NOTES

A Timely Topic

Suggestions on "Leading Field Trips for Youth" is a subject which has been accorded much thought, discussion, trial, constructive criticism, and recommendation by many interested persons. Consideration and reduction of pages of suggestions submitted by the Audubon teaching staff produces a four-point outline with the major headings: *Purpose*, *Preparation by Leader and Group*, *Trip*, and *Summary*. The essence of the first point can be briefly summarized by recommending that there be a specific purpose, with bird, insect, marine life, rock, or habitat study as possibilities; or a more generalized exploration trip, such as a trip to discover as many indications of animal activity as possible in a given area, or to observe the evidences of seasonal change. The goal, of course, is modified by the season and the age, number, and previous preparation — in school, club, or family activity — of the expected group. Preparation, also modified by the aforementioned factors, may be a co-operative experience in planning by leader and group, or it may be predetermined by the leader alone. Whatever the preplanning technique, it is strongly advised that the leader explore the special possibilities offered by the area and to be prepared to advise or guide the group in matters of proper apparel, adequate equipment, judicious timing of trip, and the use of such aids as light, tides, and approaches to the best advantage. On the trip proper, the leader's role is one of maintaining interest and enthusiasm by example, use of trail games, highlighting any particular discoveries, providing adequate time for collecting, photography, or resting (whatever is in order), guiding the use of all the senses, and indicating a variety of observations to appeal to all interests. The summarizing may be done just before disbanding, or, if it is a school or club trip, follow-ups with reports, projects, or displays are very satisfactory.

We are compiling a mimeographed guide, "Field Trips for Youth," incorporating specific suggestions, which will be available at a nominal cost. Inquiries and suggestions are welcome.

FRANCES SHERBURNE

RANDOM NOTES: The Education Staff has moved to Rocky Knoll and from all accounts is efficiently and commodiously settled. A vote of thanks goes to Mrs. Alexander for her tireless efforts and stunning effects . . . Frances Sherburne reports that her first official Milton assignment, preparing a troop of Girl Scouts for their bird finder's badge and a trip to Moose Hill, was a real pleasure . . . Audubon teachers present a lesson on insects with the provocative title "Six-legged World" . . . Alvah Sanborn announces that several new lessons were added to the regular spring series, bringing the total number of Berkshire classes to 85 . . . Anthony Thurston's students, working entirely on

their own, evolved the idea of creating bird plaques of clay . . . Emerging Cecropia, largest of local silkworm moths, easily provided the dominant point of interest in one of the Sharon Audubon classes when it pushed out of its cocoon during a morning session recently, writes Albert Bussewitz . . . From Edwin Mason comes a fine piece entitled "Outdoor Good Manners." Written primarily for young people preparing to visit a sanctuary, it could also be well used in connection with our constant campaign against "litterbugs" and for conservation in general . . . "We are very grateful to the Osterville Garden Club for sponsoring our science lessons," writes a grade six pupil in the Barnstable *Patriot*. "We have learned a great deal from Mr. Levi." . . . *The Crier*, published by the sixth grade in Weston, reports that "Miss Goode often brings animals to illustrate her talks to us. We enjoy her visits very much." . . . Stephen Cribben, 13, writes what more of us should remember: "Many people think hawks and owls love to kill and devour chickens. They don't. Once in a while when food is scarce they will. But not very often. The Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Goshawk, also the Great Horned Owl will do this on occasion. But that is the nature of these birds." . . . And from the fifth grade of the Leeds School come these lines from Linda Brooks:

"There are many signs of spring
One of which a bird will sing . . ."

M.B.S.

Brookline Bird Club Trips

Open to Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society

May 7, all day. Auto trip to Mount Auburn, Nahant, and Marblehead Neck. Mr. Lewis, CRystal 9-1355-R. Afternoon, Nahant. Mrs. Boot, LYnn 8-0257.

May 9, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden. Miss Hanson, COmmonwealth 6-1595.

May 10, 6:30 A.M. Mount Auburn. Meet at side entrance on Coolidge Avenue. Mr. O'Gorman, KIRkland 7-5797. Evening walk, Mount Auburn. Meet at main entrance, 5:40 P.M. Mr. Beattie, WAltham 5-5827-J.

May 11, 6:30 A.M. Boston Public Garden. Meet on Beacon Street side of the pond. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.

May 13, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden. Miss Wild, COmmonwealth 6-6053.

May 14, all day. Automobile trip in Essex County. Mr. Little, WAltham 5-4295-J. Afternoon, Mount Auburn. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741.

May 16, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden. Miss Hanson, COmmonwealth 6-1595.

May 17, 6:30 A.M. Mount Auburn. Meet at side entrance on Coolidge Avenue. Evening walk. Horn Pond, Woburn.

May 18, 6:30 A.M. Boston Public Garden. Meet on Beacon Street side of the pond. Mrs. Argue, KENmore 6-3604.

May 20, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden.

May 21, all day. Automobile trip in Essex County.

May 22, afternoon. Woburn, Horn Pond. Osborne Earle, KIRkland 7-8217.

May 23, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden.

May 24, 6:30 A.M. Mount Auburn. Meet at side entrance on Coolidge Avenue. Osborne Earle, KIRkland 7-8217. Evening walk, Mount Auburn. Meet at main entrance, 5:40 P.M. Mr. Beattie, WAltham 5-5827-J.

May 25, 6:30 A.M. Boston Public Garden. Meet on Beacon Street side of pond. Miss Lawson, CApitol 7-5618.

May 27, 6:30 A.M. Boston Fenway. Meet at Rose Garden.

May 28, all day. Ipswich. Afternoon, Nahant.

May 30, all day. Newburyport and vicinity.

May 31, evening. Horn Pond, Woburn. Mr. Heston, REading 2-2741.

June 4, all day. U. S. Wildlife Refuge, Concord. Miss Barry, MEIrose 4-5888.

June 5, afternoon. North Reading. Mrs. Blanchard.

June 7, evening. Blue Hills. Miss Wollaston, BLuehills 8-2750.



BY RUTH P. EMERY

March certainly lived up to its windy reputation. There was also considerable snow, much of it mixed with rain. Rain fell on fifteen days. The heaviest snowfall came during the first week, a total of 4.7 inches accumulating over the 4th and 5th. Worcester County had a severe ice storm, with power interrupted in many communities. On two days the temperature hit the monthly maximum of 63 degrees, and the minimum was 17 degrees on the 3th. As a result the migration was very backward.

As many as 200 HORNED GREBES were present at Plum Island during the month. PIED-BILLED GREBES were first heard calling in the Sudbury Valley on March 13. GANNETS were reported, March 1, at Rockport, and 100 were seen at Plum Island, March 23. Large flocks of EUROPEAN CORMORANTS were noted at Acoaxet and Vineyard Sound, and a DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT was reported, March 13. An AMERICAN EGRET was observed at Scituate Harbor, March 9, and SNOWY EGRETS were reported from Chatham (March 12) and Monomoy (March 15). An AMERICAN BITTERN was found at Osterville, March 14, and at Newbury and Lynnfield at the end of the month.

A very small emaciated WHISTLING SWAN was found in Rockport, March 27, by Billy James. It appeared exhausted and seemed to have a leg injury. It was observed by several people before it was captured and taken to the Metropolitan Zoo at Stoneham, where it was given excellent medical treatment, but it did not survive.

About 2500 CANADA GEESE could be seen at the Parker River Refuge, March 12 on, while migrating flocks were reported from several places throughout the month. 58 SNOW GEESE were seen at Plum Island, March 27, the numbers increasing to 125. On March 25 and 26 an adult BLUE GOOSE was noted with the flock; 19 SNOW GEESE were also found at Bolton, and 3 were present in Wayland, March 25 and 26. 664 AMERICAN BRANT were counted at Duxbury Harbor, March 24, when one BLACK BRANT was found in the flock.

Of the fresh-water ducks, the PINTAIL, GREEN-WINGED TEAL, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, and WOOD DUCKS were reported in small numbers, and BALDPATE in fair numbers; there were good numbers of RING-NECKED DUCKS at Halifax and Wayland. The wintering EUROPEAN WIDGEON in Plymouth was joined by a female, seen with it on the 20th. One was also found in the Sudbury Valley, a second record for the valley. Two drake EUROPEAN TEAL at Plum Island, 14 REDHEAD DUCKS at Brewster, and good numbers of CANVAS-BACKS at Somerset throughout the month. A LESSER SCAUP was well seen in Weston, March 13, constituting a first record for Weston. BARROW'S GOLDEN-EYE at seven places; 3 HARLEQUIN DUCKS at Acoaxet.

On March 24, 109 hawks were seen migrating over Holyoke between noon and 2:50 P.M. (Bagg); and on the same day, in Sudbury Valley, Mrs. Frances

Elkins counted 59 hawks of 10 species, including GOSHAWK, PIGEON, and DUCK HAWKS. TURKEY VULTURES were reported from five places; a GOLDEN EAGLE at West Newbury, March 15; OSPREY first noted, March 20, in Niantic, Conn., and on March 24 in Tiverton, R.I.

RUFFED GROUSE were heard drumming toward the end of the month. At least five VIRGINIA RAILS were heard calling at Lynnfield, March 31 (Goodell and Norton). Eight species of shore birds were reported; there were numbers of KILLDEER the week end of March 12-13; 7 PIPING PLOVERS were seen at Jerusalem, R.I., March 13, and one was seen in Nantucket, March 19, on snow-covered ground; WOODCOCK were first reported, March 9 (Rowley); one was picked up alive in Revere, March 10 (Museum of Science), and 8 were flushed in Weston, March 19; as many as 200 RED-BACKED SANDPIPERS in Winthrop throughout the month. A RED PHALAROPE was seen in Green Hill, R.I., March 12, by Douglas Kraus, and by several observers on March 13.

WHITE-WINGED GULLS continued along the coast, and both GLAUCOUS and ICELAND were reported from Weston, and from Burlington, Vt.; 3 KUMLIEN'S were still present at Plum Island, March 22. LITTLE GULLS were observed in Providence, R.I., and Newburyport, and 4 EUROPEAN BLACK-HEADED GULLS were seen in Newburyport during the month. On March 20 160 RING-BILLED GULLS were noted at Plymouth.

A DOVEKIE at Nantucket, March 14; an ATLANTIC MURRE at Rockport and BLACK GUILLEMOT still present there, March 17. Fifteen KITTIWAKES were noted at Rockport, March 1 (deWindt).

A BARN OWL was observed in Weston by Davis Finch, and GREAT HORNED OWLS are nesting in Hamilton; SNOWY OWLS could still be seen at Plum Island until the end of the month; 12 BARRED OWLS were reported, a LONG-EARED OWL was at Plum Island, and SHORT-EARED OWLS were noted at Nantucket, Plum Island, and Scituate; a SAW-WHET was calling in Milton, March 25.

PHOEBES were reported from 26 localities, March 4 on. Numbers of PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS increased, 200 being counted at Newburyport, March 27. TREE SWALLOWS began to arrive, March 12. The CANADA JAY in Orange was still around at the end of the month. Flocks of migrating CROWS were noted throughout the month. ACADIAN CHICKADEES were reported from Concord, Holyoke, and North Brookfield, and from Rutland, Vt. Only a few BROWN CREEPERS were reported, but 2 HOUSE WRENS were seen at Marshfield Center, March 24. Two WINTER WRENS, 2 CAROLINA WRENS, and a LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN were all noted. Seven MOCKINGBIRDS, a CATBIRD in Waban, March 12, and a BROWN THRASHER in Ipswich, March 9. ROBINS began to arrive, March 11, slightly increasing by March 24; 5 HERMIT THRUSHES, scattered BLUEBIRDS, a few RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, one AMERICAN PIPIT at Holyoke, 13 NORTHERN SHRIKES, and 5 MIGRANT SHRIKES. The wintering ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER in Concord was still present, March 18. A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD in Plainville, March 24 (Goddard); RED-WING migrants noted in numbers early in the month, but breeding birds had not arrived by March 12. There was a particularly good flight of RUSTY BLACKBIRDS this year. BALTIMORE ORIOLES were reported from Middleboro, Arlington, and Auburn. The CARDINAL is still singing in Middleboro, and a pair has been reported from Lenox. The Barn-

stable BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK appeared again at the feeders of Mr. and Mrs. Roger L. Lyon, March 18, and was seen again on March 21. The head is now quite black and the collar around the neck more rufous. Another INDIGO BUNTING has appeared in Lincoln, and two birds in different plumages are now visiting feeders there. EVENING GROSBEEKS are still well distributed and in good numbers at some places; PURPLE FINCHES have been very scarce, and PINE GROSBEEKS were still around, March 31. RED-POLLS were reported throughout the month in fair-sized flocks, and PINE SISKINS were scattered in small numbers, although one flock at South Hanson numbered 110. RED CROSSBILLS were seen in Belmont and Marblehead Neck, and in Saco, Maine. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS were reported from eight localities. Only one IPSWICH SPARROW was reported (Plum Island); CHIPPING SPARROWS in Sudbury Valley and Ipswich; a LARK SPARROW found in Rumford, R.I., March 13 (Kraus party); FIELD SPARROWS appeared March 13 and were singing by March 20; a HARRIS'S SPARROW was present in Bradford, at the home of Mrs. Clifford G. Tate, throughout March and was banded by Oscar Root, March 18; FOX SPARROWS were well distributed, several flocks numbering 20 to 25. A LAPLAND LONGSPUR was reported from Northampton, and 14 were still at Plum Island at the end of the month, most of them in breeding plumage. On March 8 1000 SNOW BUNTINGS were estimated at Old Bennington, Vt.

SPRING PEEPERS, WOOD FROGS, and a RED-BACKED SALAMANDER were first noted in Weston, March 31 (C. E. Smith), and a VARYING HARE, changing to summer coat, was also seen there March 19 (Gorely). Twenty-six WHITE-TAILED DEER were observed at Ipswich Beach, and WOODCHUCKS were reported at the end of the month.

On March 27 our Audubon Field Trip was scheduled for Sudbury Valley and, in spite of driving rain and wind, 44 species were listed. Some of the highlights were PHOEBES, BLACK-BACKED ROBINS, CHIPPING SPARROWS, RIDGWAY'S GRACKLE, and PINE GROSBEEKS.

We expect the "Voice of Audubon" will be busier than ever as the spring migrants arrive. Listen in and keep us posted when you have anything of interest to report.

News of Bird Clubs

THE HAMPSHIRE BIRD CLUB, one of the newer ornithological groups in the State, founded in the spring of 1954, held monthly meetings in Northampton throughout the winter, with Edwin A. Mason, Director of Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, as presiding officer and program chairman. Field Trips on Saturday afternoons began in April. Volunteer leaders are welcomed by the club, as well as any assistance with transportation that can be provided.

May field trips scheduled by the SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB include a half-day trip on May 7 (from 5:30 A.M.) to Flyway, for warblers and early residents, led by Sibley Higginbotham (GRanite 2-8578); a half-day trip on May 15 (from 7:00 A.M.) to Boston Public Garden and Mount Auburn, led by George Wilson (PResident 3-6120); an evening trip on May 18 (7-10 P.M.) to the South Shore for evening birds of marsh and swamp, and from Quincy to Hanson to hear evening and night song of the marsh birds, led by Robert Fox (MAYflower 9-2824); an all-day trip on May 21 (from 7:00 A.M.) to the South Shore, for shore and land bird migrants, led by Miss Jane O'Regan (TAlbot 5-9717); and an all-day trip on June 5 (from 8:00 A.M.) to Plymouth Beach, for terns and late shore migrants. All trips leave from the parking space behind the Adams Academy, Quincy.

11th Annual Berkshire Campout

June 10-12, 1955

The Purple Hills of the Berkshires are rich in beauty and charm and in birds which are peculiar to the region or rare in other parts of the State. In their quest for birds, campout participants will travel to many scenic areas of the county, including the Society's own beautiful sanctuary—Pleasant Valley. In the marshes along with many common birds, we shall hope to see Florida Gallinules, Blue-winged Teal, and Sora and Virginia Rails. Against the rugged backdrop of mountain cliffs we shall seek the screaming Duck Hawks, and along the cool, clear brooks the Louisiana Water-Thrush. In the fields of daisies Grasshopper Sparrows and Henslow's Sparrows will be sought, while overhead in effortless, soaring flight Turkey Vultures may be seen. Not only shall we seek these, but we confidently expect to enable everyone to have a good view of such birds.

Mt. Greylock, the State's highest mountain, is one of the highlights of the campout. A night on this mountain is an experience not soon to be forgotten. At sundown there is the evening chorus — the plaintive calls of the White-throats, the staccato notes of the Black-poll Warblers, and the lovely, haunting refrains of the Olive-backed and Bicknell's Thrushes. Have you ever seen the Blackburnian Warbler flashing its jewel-like throat in the early morning sun? Or have you heard and seen the Mourning Warbler on its breeding grounds? The morning trip should enable the camper to see and hear these and many more — like the Olive-sided Flycatchers, Sapsuckers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Red-breasted Nuthatches, and Winter Wrens. The wooded roadsides are carpeted with many beautiful spring flowers which have long since gone by in the lowlands.

Each day's trip is concluded with a meeting and delicious meal at the Sanctuary Barn at Pleasant Valley. Here is afforded the opportunity to meet old friends and to make new acquaintances — a chance for good fellowship among fellow birders.

HEADQUARTERS: The Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield. Tel. Pittsfield 2-6373.

RESERVATIONS: Limited to 50 persons. Reservations should be made in advance with Alvah W. Sanborn, Campout Chairman, Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Massachusetts, not later than June 4. No cancellations will be accepted after this date. See Registration Form.

FEE: Save money: register early. If registration is postmarked not later than May 29, fee is \$6.00, after May 29, \$7.00. This fee includes guide service, one night's lodging on Mt. Greylock, dinner Saturday evening and dinner Sunday noon. For those attending one night on Greylock and one day only, the fee is \$4.50.

TRANSPORTATION: Transportation during the campout will be by private car and, so far as possible, will be furnished for those requiring it. Transportation to and from Pittsfield must be provided by the individual.

LODGING: All attending the campout must arrange directly for their own lodging (except for Greylock reservations, for which see Registration Form), but this does not constitute a real problem, as there is no shortage of rooms, cabins, and motels in Pittsfield and vicinity at this season of the year. Lodging information will be supplied upon request. For those who wish to camp out, camp sites are available at Pleasant Valley and on top of the mountain. For those camping on the summit, the lodging fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.

Program

FRIDAY, JUNE 10. 5:00-7:00 P.M. All campout participants will check in and register at the Berkshire Museum. "The Bicknell's Thrush" trip leaves at 6:15 to spend the night at Bascom Lodge on the summit of Mt. Greylock. Anyone who cannot register between 5:00 and 7:00 should so notify the campout chairman.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11. 5:00 A.M. Valley Trip, "The Florida Gallinule," leaves the Berkshire Museum to explore the southern part of the county. Breakfast can be obtained at 4:30 at a diner near the museum; a box lunch should also be purchased.

The "Bicknell's Thrush" can purchase breakfast and lunch at Bascom Lodge. The Summit, the Tall Spruces, and Stony Ledge will be explored, and after lunch some of the lakes and marshes around Pittsfield may be visited.

5:15 P.M. Both groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for dinner.

6:15 P.M. The Valley Group leaves to spend the night on Greylock.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12. The group that took the Mountain Trip on Saturday will this day take the Valley Trip, and vice versa. Starting times will be the same as Saturday. At 1:00 P.M., all groups meet at Pleasant Valley Sanctuary for luncheon, following which the campout will adjourn.

All trips will start promptly as scheduled, regardless of the weather, but may be subject to changes which will be announced at the campout.

Everyone attending the campout should bring warm clothing, as the nights and mornings, especially on the mountain, may be cold. A pair of rubbers or overshoes will come in handy in the early morning dew.

Registration Form

ALVAH W. SANBORN, *Chairman*, Campout Committee

Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox, Mass.

I (We) hereby register for the BERKSHIRE CAMPOUT, June 10, 11, 12, 1955. Enclosed is (are) registration fee(s) as checked below. Make checks payable to Alvah W. Sanborn.

Entire Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

If postmarked by May 29, \$6.00 per person

If postmarked after May 29, \$7.00 per person

I wish to spend (Friday night) (Saturday night) on Mt. Greylock

Half of Campout (includes lodging on Mt. Greylock)

Friday night and Saturday only, \$4.50 per person

Saturday night and Sunday only, \$4.50 per person

(Accommodations on Mt. Greylock are limited, consequently campers can spend only one night on the mountain. If all accommodations have already been reserved when your application is received, the lodging fee of \$1.25 will be refunded.)

☐ Please send list of possible places to secure lodging.

☐ I can furnish transportation for _____ extra persons.

☐ I desire transportation for the trips scheduled for _____ persons.

Name _____ Address _____

Name _____ Address _____

Report of the Auditors **MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY**

BALANCE SHEET **As at October 31, 1954**

ASSETS

Cash		\$ 5,927
Accounts receivable		5,967
Merchandise inventories — at cost		26,684
Investments:		
Marketable securities (\$539,488 at current quotations) \$18,469 pledged as loan collateral	\$332,520	
Savings bank deposits (including \$6,894 for annuity fund)	16,578	349,098
Deferred charges:		
Expenditures being amortized by periodic charges to operating expenses	12,669	
Cook's Canyon dining hall construction costs to be charged against annuity fund when it becomes available to the Society	6,894	19,563
		<u>\$407,239</u>
Wild life sanctuaries — at nominal amounts where donated, plus expenditures by the Society:		
Ipswich River	64,413	
Marblehead Neck	20,691	
Moose Hill	17,660	
Arcadia	7,080	
Six other sanctuaries	6	109,850
Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston		17,537
		<u>\$127,387</u>

LIABILITIES AND FUNDS

Note payable to bank (with collateral)		3,000
Accounts payable and amounts withheld from payrolls		3,363
Funds expendable for special purposes (Schedule I)		4,135
Endowment:		
Legacies and memorial funds (Schedule II):		
Principal and income unrestricted (reduced by deficits from operations)	231,706	
Principal restricted, income unrestricted	34,624	
Principal and income restricted	85,563	
	351,893	
Reserve fund (Schedule III)	33,998	
Gains realized on investments during the year ended October 31, 1954	\$2,497	
Net gains in prior years	1,459	3,956
Annuity fund		6,894
		<u>\$407,239</u>
Sanctuary funds (Schedule IV)		109,850
Audubon House Building Fund		17,537
		<u>\$127,387</u>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

Year Ended October 31, 1954

Income:

Interest and dividends received, \$20,929 less \$3,335 apportioned to funds for special purposes (Schedule I)		\$ 17,594
Dues		22,356
Unrestricted donations		8,629
Fees and donations for educational work		77,353
Donations for current expenses of undesignated sanctuaries		2,439
Funds for special purposes (Schedule I):		
Received during the year	\$ 15,272	
Less net increase in unexpended balances	1,260	
Used during the year (expenses included below)		14,012
Profit on merchandise sales		22,926
Lecture course and miscellaneous income		1,104
Total income		166,413

Operating expenses (note):

Administrative and general:		
Salaries and wages	49,059	
Office maintenance and expenses and other administrative and general expenses	21,341	70,400
Teachers' salaries and other educational expenses		80,742
Bulletins		10,354
Salaries and other operating expenses of sanctuaries:		
Arcadia	5,001	
Moose Hill	5,550	
Cook's Canyon	4,617	
Pleasant Valley	4,952	
Ipswich River	4,989	
Other	179	25,288
Records of New England Birds		545
Total expenses		187,329
Excess of expenses over income for the year, charged against unrestricted legacies and memorial funds (Schedule II)		\$ 20,916

Note — Operating expenses generally are recorded in the accounts as they are paid. At October 31, 1954 the amount of unpaid expenses was not significant.

Report of Auditing Committee

To the Board of Directors:

The Auditing Committee reports that it employed Messrs. Lybrand, Ross Brothers and Montgomery, Certified Public Accountants, to examine the accounts for the year ended October 31, 1954 and to verify the same according to law. The report of the Auditors is given herewith; we have considered it and we recommend that it be accepted by the Directors.

ELLIOTT B. CHURCH
ROGER ERNST
EDWIN C. JOHNSON

March 10, 1955

SCHEDULE I — FUNDS EXPENDABLE FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES

Year Ended October 31, 1954

	Balances November 1, 1953	Receipts (see note below)	Charges	Balances October 31, 1954
Funds available for sanctuary expenses:				
Ipswich River		\$ 5,539	\$ 4,989	\$ 550
Pleasant Valley	\$2,174	3,330	3,232	2,272
Cook's Canyon		2,862	2,862	
Nahant Thicket	583	33		616
Moose Hill		487	487	
Arcadia		312	312	
Rocky Knoll		319	28	291
Marblehead Neck		121	121	
Tern Island		41		41
Sampson's Island		28	28	
	2,757	13,072	12,059	3,770
Gift for Camp Scholarships		2,000	1,910	90
Francis H. Allen Memorial Fund	105	109	27	187
Smith Club Room Fund	13			13
Elizabeth Loring Lending Library Fund		91	16	75
	\$2,875	\$15,272	\$14,012	\$4,135

Note — Restricted interest and dividends included in receipts
for sanctuary expenses:

Ipswich River	\$ 71
Pleasant Valley	121
Cook's Canyon	2,511
Moose Hill	313
Rocky Knoll	319
	<u>\$3,335</u>

SCHEDULE II — LEGACIES AND MEMORIAL FUNDS

Year Ended October 31, 1954

Principal and income unrestricted:

Balance November 1, 1953		\$244,688
Legacies received during the year:		
Elizabeth F. Hoyt	\$11,590	
Ethel L. Fogg	1,662	
Eva A. Dickey	1,000	
Abby W. Hunt	483	14,735
		<u>259,423</u>
Excess of expenses over income for the year	20,916	
Transferred to sanctuary funds (Schedule IV) for property expenditures in excess of contributions:		
Ipswich River Sanctuary	6,150	
Arcadia Sanctuary	651	27,717
		<u>\$231,706</u>
Balance October 31, 1954		

Principal restricted, income unrestricted:

Balance November 1, 1953, unchanged during the year	\$ 34,624
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SCHEDULE II, Continued

Principal and income restricted:		
Balance November 1, 1953		50,327
Received during the year:		
From Miss Eleanor P. Martin as a gift for endowment of		
Rocky Knoll Sanctuary	25,000	
Marblehead Neck Sanctuary, contributions in excess of		
acquisition cost of property	10,172	
From Estate of Florence H. Read, for Cook's Canyon		
Sanctuary endowment	64	35,236
Balance October 31, 1954		<u>\$ 85,563</u>

SCHEDULE III — RESERVE FUND

Year Ended October 31, 1954

Balance November 1, 1953	\$32,598
Received from 14 new life members	1,400
Balance October 31, 1954	<u>\$33,998</u>

SCHEDULE IV — SANCTUARY FUNDS

Year Ended October 31, 1954

Balance November 1, 1953		\$ 76,682
Contributions (\$17,635 received in the preceding year) for purchase of Marblehead Neck Sanctuary	\$30,863	
Portion in excess of acquisition cost of property, transferred to restricted endowment (Schedule II)	10,172	
Acquisition cost of property		20,691
Contributions for property expenditures at other sanctuaries:		
Ipswich River	3,000	
Arcadia	2,676	5,676
Amounts transferred from unrestricted endowment (Schedule II) to finance additional property expenditures:		
Ipswich River	6,150	
Arcadia	651	6,801
Balance October 31, 1954 (Consisting of \$56,878 restricted funds and gifts and \$52,972 transferred from unrestricted endowments.)		<u>\$109,850</u>

Report of the Auditors

Auditing Committee,
Massachusetts Audubon Society,
Boston, Massachusetts

We have examined the balance sheet of the Massachusetts Audubon Society as at October 31, 1954, the related statement of income and expenses and schedules of changes in funds for the year then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the aforementioned balance sheet, statement of income and expenses and schedules of changes in funds present fairly the financial position of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at October 31, 1954 and the results of its financial operations for the year then ended on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Boston, Massachusetts
February 8, 1955

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BOOK REVIEWS

BIRDS IN MASSACHUSETTS; WHEN AND WHERE TO FIND THEM. By W. Wallace Bailey. College Press, South Lancaster, Mass. 1955. \$3.50. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

This book is a must for all Massachusetts birders. Wallace Bailey has done the prodigious job of going through all of the twenty years of publication of *The Records of New England Birds* species by species, year by year, migration by migration, culling our dates of early arrival; the way the numbers in the tide of migration build up to the time of main flood; the numbers reported at such times and where they occur; then the ebb and slack. For wintering birds he records arrival, the way their numbers shift about from time to time and place to place, and their gathering for departure. Under each species he comments on how common they are and where they can be found, then goes on to record specific numbers to make the judgment quantitative. He has given meaning to the sea of dates and numbers that have appeared monthly since 1934 and presented an orderly interpretation of what Massachusetts birders have found out about the migration during that period. A sample as careful as this taken over a twenty-year period must be close to entirely accurate, and any changes we find in the future will probably be changes in the migration itself.

Wisely, Bailey has almost entirely limited himself to the notes published in *The Records*, thus founding his work on an identifiable set of data. In addition, he has contributed to the interpretation of these records; for instance, he has explained the treatment in *The Records* of certain species which are recorded for a certain period and then vanish when the only thing that has changed is the policy

of the editor. Were not these explanations made now, while we know the circumstances and individuals involved, some worker in the future, finding the evident arbitration, would wonder what less-evident species were affected by changes in editorial policy.

A small criticism of the book may be directed at its use of breeding dates and early and late occurrences taken from Forbush. Forbush's records are based on quite a different set of data, different conditions of observation, of climate, and of countryside. Since the records of the last twenty years represent a fairly uniform set of conditions and observers, they are best treated as a unit. The extensions of early and late dates from Forbush are less significant than the breeding dates which need retesting and restudy on the basis of what is known of the present. Bailey explains the source of the breeding dates he includes because there is no more recent data, and he refers to them in general terms to avoid misinterpretation. What this lack of information especially emphasizes is that perhaps the best project for the next twenty years is for some of the hordes of birders to start studying nesting, egg dates, hatching, and fledging, which are really very poorly known and for which the same admirable body of data is much needed that is so well interpreted here on migration.

Wallace Bailey has presented a splendid review of just what is definitely known and published about migration and wintering of birds in Massachusetts. This was done in his spare time. He is to be admired for the output of work and congratulated on the fine job.

WILLIAM H. DRURY, JR.

The book reviewed above will be available at Audubon House about May fifteenth to be of aid during the late spring migration.

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Book Reviews (Cont.)

LAST OF THE CURLEWS. By Fred Bodsworth. Illustrated by T. M. Shortt. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York. 1955. 128 pages. \$3.00.

This is an interesting and well-written account of a year in the life of one of the few last-remaining Eskimo Curlews, a species which once rivaled the Passenger Pigeon in the vastness of its migrating flocks, but which today, if not actually extinct like the Pigeon, is undoubtedly on the very threshold of extinction.

The story begins with the arrival of a lone male at the nesting territory and carries through with a thrilling account of the fall migration across northern Canada to Labrador, over the trackless ocean to South America, then the winter in Patagonia, and the return trip via the Pacific coast of South America, Yucatan, the Gulf of Mexico, and the prairie States and provinces to a second summer on the bleak Arctic tundra. The author, who is a staff writer for *Maclean's Magazine*, a popular Canadian monthly, has evidently made a very careful and thorough study of the life

history and behavior patterns of not only the Eskimo Curlew but many others of its shore bird relatives. He has written a dramatic story but one which avoids all suggestion of humanizing the subject of the story. It is *instinct* which governs the lone bird's actions throughout the entire story.

The plump, flavorful Eskimo Curlew was a tempting target for the pioneers in America, and its closely massed flocks made its slaughter pitifully easy. And the Curlews, unfortunately, when a shotgun volley dropped some of a flock, would circle back over the fallen birds time after time, while the gunners blazed away repeatedly and the flock decreased in size. Only selfish and thoughtless man is responsible for the disappearance of this fine species.

This slender volume has a profusion of excellent scratchboard illustrations by another Canadian naturalist, T. M. Shortt, while the inside covers present a graphic view of the routes followed in migration by the Eskimo Curlew, which traversed the entire length of two continents and back again each season, a flight surpassed in distance by few other species of birds.

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The alarm call of Herring Gulls has been recorded on tape and is to be tried as a means of keeping them away from airfields.

Book Reviews (Cont.)

BIRDS OF LA PLATA. Notes by W. H. Hudson. Introduction by Richard Curle. Color Plates by S. Magno. King Penguin Books, London. (No date.) 95 cents.

W. H. Hudson, famed in literary circles for his *Green Mansions*, was an ardent field ornithologist. Perhaps first in that connection his name will evoke thoughts of Argentine birds and the pampas of half a century ago. Richard Curle's introduction, itself a masterpiece of prose writing, recalls for us, partly through quotations from Hudson's writings, this disappearing grassland of the world. More than this, Mr. Curle tells us of Hudson's appearance and personality, which he does so well because of a personal acquaintance with the aging Hudson who lived in England during his productive years.

Actually this little book of forty-six pages, including plates, contains cullings of Hudson's life histories of only sixteen birds. Four of these are identical species or very close allies of birds of the southern parts of our own country: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Derby Flycatcher, and Mockingbird. Reading about such familiar species from a far-away part of their ranges adds to interest. However, because of the introduction about the pampas, more about grassland birds would have been welcome—especially the Common Rhea, that ostrichlike flightless creature famed in the legends of the gauchos.

Sixteen plates done by the Argentine artist S. Magno form a concluding section.

ROBERT L. GRAYCE

CLIMATE, VEGETATION AND MAN. By Leonard Hadlow, B.A. Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 1953. 288 pages. 83 figures. Well-illustrated with halftones. \$4.75.

This book is essentially a textbook, and an admirable one at that, dealing with a most important subject. Written by the senior geography master of the High School in Manchester, England, it very obviously is the outgrowth of many years of experience in the teaching profession. We fully concur with the statement in the Preface: "The influence of climate upon life on the earth—plant, animal, and human—is of the highest importance and can hardly be overemphasized. The material welfare of the various peoples of the world to a very large extent depends upon climate. Moreover, man's mental and spiritual development is, in part, controlled by the climatic environment in which he finds himself, and in the course of history

Book Reviews (Cont.)

many civilizations have arisen and decayed with changing climatic conditions."

Climate, Vegetation and Man is in three main sections. The first part has to do with the principles that govern day and night, the seasons, and other climatic phenomena. Part II deals with natural vegetation and climate. The last section covers the effects of climate and the activities of man. At the end of each chapter are exercises designed to stimulate thinking by the student on the area covered.

As mentioned, this book was intended for use as a textbook, but the general reader will find that it takes him on a fire-side trip around the world, to see the effects of climate on the people of the world, its effects on their domestic animals and crops, and so on their standards of living.

EDWIN A. MASON

From Our Correspondence

"Audubon's America" Continued in Britain

"Between annual meetings and lectures and flower shows and fine new education departments and telephone bird services, it's time you hear how 'Audubon's America' has been going this winter in Britain! As other years, I have been kept very much occupied with the project. This year I was very pleased to have shown it to additional societies of note, such as the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (4th showing in Edinburgh!), and to more schools. Recently I was able to show 'Audubon's America' at Marlborough College, an old school for clergymen's sons, ranking with Eton, etc. These boys were a fine audience! The press report referred to the film as 'a masterpiece of patience and technical skill.'

"I am sure that a campaign on my part this spring would let me bring our film to many more schools here. I hate to leave with this work not finished, and I hope that you feel this way too. I believe so strongly that it is not only of value to conservation, but also is important in promoting Anglo-American good will. I think, too, that my being here with our film is a quite positive, although perhaps invisible, help to the work of the M.A.S. at home, through the connections of our peoples. Everyone seems to know someone in New England! I think that about 20,000 people here have seen 'Audubon's America.' And of course Peterson's *European Guide* is

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Correspondence

helping, and now also is his film 'Wild America,' which James Fisher is showing with great success.

"I hope that you feel as I do, that with 'Audubon's America' I have been given a unique opportunity to advance both conservation and international good will, as well as the work of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and that you are glad to have me carry on here another year."

London, England KATHARINE TOUSEY

Miss Pyle Writes from California

"California is more or less my native State. I have lived here more years than anywhere else. Yet I love the East. I have very recently moved to San Rafael from Oakland and like it very much. There are lots of trees here in Marin County. The street trees are mostly elm, sycamore, and Lombardy poplars.

The birding here in Marin County is excellent. Out by the firehouse in Ross are two telephone poles around which at least four Acorn Woodpeckers are often seen. The poles have been drilled by the woodpeckers and the holes contain acorns. Traffic and people passing do not seem to bother them. Their calls seem to be *whack-up, whack-up*.

I went out on February 18 with the Marin Nature Group to Strawberry Point. We saw a Red-tailed Hawk, buzzards, Western Meadowlarks — the song is very different from that of an Eastern Meadowlark — a Sparrow Hawk, Oregon Juncos, House Finches, and, on the mud flats of the bay below us, Pintails, Snowy and American Egrets, and sandpipers large and small — too small in the distance to identify with the field glasses we carried. There were probably Curlews as well as the Least, Western, and Red-backed Sandpipers. The rocks along the beach were hiding places for many small mud crabs with their purplish shells and polka-dot appendages. The beach on the Tiburon side of the Point is layered with clamshells. Some of the shells are six inches long, but most are smaller and broken. It is an interesting experience to walk on a crinkling, crackling floor of clamshells.

Johnny-jump ups, California bay, sticky monkey-flower, toothwort, and other spring flowers have begun to bloom and it begins to feel more like spring. The blooming season started as soon as the rains began to fall last autumn. The manzanitas and the three kinds of broom, as well as some of the Ceanothus, or California wild lilac, began to show color then. The blue blossom, or wild lilac, is beautiful on the

Correspondence

hills now. From the top of Mt. Tamalpais one can see for miles out to sea or inland — depending on the direction one faces — when the weather is good. I was up there in December on a day both foggy and rainy when one could barely see the next bush on the slope and the bottom of the mountain was invisible.

In Marin County within the last three months I have seen: Surf Scoters, Farallon Cormorants, Brown Pelicans, Ruddies, Scaup, Pintails, Black Oyster-catchers (my first!), Mallards, Great Blue Herons, American and Snowy Egrets, Western Grebes, many species of gulls, Canvasbacks (I saw one come in to land on a drainage ditch within six blocks of the business section of San Rafael), Red-tailed Hawks, Sparrow Hawks, Cooper's Hawks, Avocets (a lovely flock of over 200), Anna Hummingbirds, Acorn Woodpeckers, Wren-Tits, Meadowlarks, Fox and Song and White-crowned Sparrows, Juncos, California Quail, Green-backed Goldfinches, Crows, English Sparrows, and House Finches. My mother has seen Savannah Sparrows and Varied Thrushes as well. The first Varied Thrush I had ever held alive in the hand came in with a broken wing. From the condition of the feathers of wing and tail, and from plumage, I think it was a young bird. The coloring of the skin and of the bird at a distance are lovely, but the bird in the hand was exquisite. Since he did not respond to gentleness and his wing was not bad, we released him.

Another interesting experience had to do with stuffing a very, very dead sea gull for a play. "The Sea Gull," by Chekhov, involves two sea gulls, one alive (they used a mount for this), and one dead. I stuffed the dead one with a stick in the back to which I tied the wing and leg bones to keep the string intact, put in the usual cotton body, stuffed the neck and head with cotton but no stiffening. Also used some oil of wintergreen to deodorize it, and lots of borax — it needed it! The resulting specimen was evidently appreciated since it earned two tickets to the play, two thank-you letters, and three lines in a newspaper column.

I like Marin County much better than any other part of California I have seen since returning to the State in September. It is much more green, with more trees than most of this coastal section. I have met lots of Massachusetts folk and several Massachusetts Audubon members. I do miss the green-growing hills of New England and New York and the stone walls of Massachusetts. I hope I shall be able

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Correspondence

to come back and visit now and then in the years to come. I am grateful for having been able to spend two years studying and working in the East. No longer are my boundaries limited to the semi-dry, summer-dry West. Now I have summer thunderstorms and stone walls to remember, know the reasons for using telescopes in New England bird watching, have been in a hurricane, and had many experiences I could never have dreamed of having.

Some of you will have to come West and extend your boundaries. Naturalists meet kindred souls wherever they go. As the Spanish say when welcoming a guest, "*Es su casa*" — "It is your house." And it is true wherever you go that if you know and love the out-of-doors it is your house and will welcome you with open arms."

San Rafael, Cal.

JEAN PYLE

The Blue Jay, Saint or Sinner?

"I can think offhand of no bird with a worse reputation for evil than the Blue Jay — a reputation which, to my way of thinking, is a very unjust one. I have heard many people say that they refuse to feed the Blue Jay because they believe that it frightens off the other birds. In rebuttal I tell them about the Goldfinch, which I have seen sitting in the center of a feeder and not allowing another bird within a foot of it. The Blue Jay, on the other hand, shares the food with all other birds that summon up enough courage to join it, in spite of the Jay's larger size.

In my bird sanctuary, small though it may be, the Blue Jay is its guardian angel, for the Jay's persistent squawking warns other birds of an approaching cat, dog or other intruder. In fact, whenever I hear the cry of the Jay I can be sure that something is threatening the birds' safety.

During a recent snowstorm I awoke one morning to find that the food I had put out on the ground had been covered during the night by the snowfall. Then I noticed that a Blue Jay was in the tree feeder where I leave food for the squirrels, and that it was tossing out the seeds in a mad flurry of feathers. Of course the ground-feeding birds were gathered below on the crusted snow gobbling up the seed as fast as the Jay could scatter it about. He thus made food available for the other birds, no matter how selfish his motives may have been, and for that I was grateful. Give the Blue Jay half a chance and I am sure we will be well rewarded."

Taunton, Mass.

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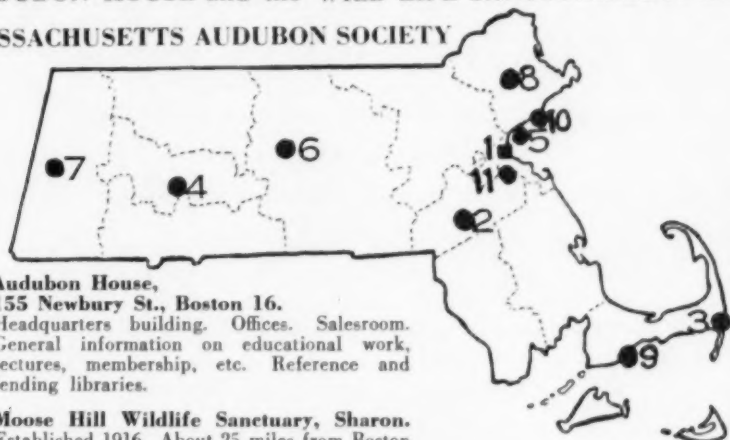
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